

September 16, 1996
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Singaporean
ents don't know
is premier

Kabariti hails Algerian moves

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Monday issued a statement hailing the success of a national reconciliation conference in Algeria which aimed at ending the violence and destruction that Algeria witnessed over the past five years. The prime minister said he "highly valued the wisdom and insight of Algerian President Liamine Zeroual and what he enjoys as a statesman capable of saving his country, exerting efforts aiming at reaching common objectives among various political groups, as well as reaching a sound basis for national reconciliation." Mr. Kabariti also paid tribute to President Zeroual's "keenness on stability in Algeria, prevalence of law and providing peace and security to the Algerian people." He called on all the Arab parties which have a positive influence in Algeria to extend a helping hand to "seize this historic opportunity which signals a new era for the Algerian people so that they can assume their natural position in the Arab World."

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Netanyahu to hold talks with Kohl in Bonn

BONN (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will later this month travel to Bonn to discuss the Middle East peace process with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a government spokesman said here Monday. During the day-long visit on Sept. 26, Mr. Kohl will be informed of the Israeli government's objectives and discuss ways of reinforcing ties between Israel and the European Union, deputy government spokesman Herbert Schmuelling said. Meanwhile, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will on Thursday meet Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and German President Roman Herzog, as part of a two-day visit to the state of Hesse, west Germany. At the end of July, Mr. Netanyahu announced he would visit Germany in September and that Mr. Kohl would pay a return visit to Israel in October. The announcement followed an exchange of prisoners and corpses between Israel and the Hizbollah mediated by Bernd Schmidbauer, German budget minister.

Egyptian wargames to counter nuclear attack

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Defence Minister Mohamed Hussein Tantawi has indicated that military exercises underway in Egypt included responding to a potential Israeli nuclear attack. "As long as there is a neighbouring country which has weapons of massive destruction, we must carry out defensive training aimed at facing up to a use of these weapons to reduce their dangerous effect," he told the government daily Al Gomhoriya in remarks published Monday. The field marshal said that the training concerned reacting to nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. According to Western experts Israel has nearly 200 nuclear warheads. Field Marshal Tantawi stressed that the wargames which the Egyptian armed forces launched earlier this month were part of a five-year plan and not linked in any way to current developments in the region. The 10-day-long wargames dubbed "Badr 96" began Tuesday and were described by Field Marshal Tantawi as "the largest strategic manoeuvres" ever in Egypt. He said that new weapons which he did not identify would be used. The navy, air force, infantry, artillery and paratroopers as well as commandos are taking part in the manoeuvres which include amphibious landing exercises.

Smoking banned on Syrian airlines flights

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Smoking is banned on Syrian Arab Airlines international and domestic flights as of October 1 under a decree issued Monday by Transport Minister Mufid Abdul Karim. The ban was ordered to contribute to the well-being of travellers, the official Syrian news agency SANA said. It did not mention whether there would be a penalty for violating the ban. President Hafez Al Assad last Monday banned Syrian media from running tobacco advertisements. Penalties for violating the advertising ban are a prison term of four months to one year and a fine of up to about 100,000 Syrian pounds (\$2,000).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة سياسية ونسائية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Dead children had inhaled poison

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two children who collapsed and died at their home on Wednesday had inhaled some kind of poisonous material, an official source said Monday. "Latest results of laboratory tests indicate that the poisonous chemical material found in the blood of the children was inhaled and not consumed as believed earlier," the official source said. Hanin Mazen Masri, nine, died after collapsing at the door and her six-year-old brother Hani, was found dead in a bedroom in their apartment in Abu Oneizah Housing in Shmeisani when their mother returned home after dropping her husband at work. The children were left alone for about 25 minutes, according to a relative. Food poisoning was ruled out as cause of death immediately after first tests. One source said Monday blood samples were sent abroad for tests, but this could not be independently confirmed. Police sources contacted by the Jordan Times said final results of laboratory tests were expected to be announced soon.

U.S. fails to seal cracks in anti-Iraq coalition

Clinton says Washington does not seek confrontation with Saddam after Perry mission falls short of goal

Kuwait accepts to host 5,000 U.S. soldiers, but Turkey says it will not be a base for anti-Iraq strikes

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES was unable to paper over the cracks in the anti-Iraq coalition Monday, reducing the chances of resuming military action in the Gulf anytime soon.

Pentagon sources said the U.S. has for the moment given up on stationing additional troops in Kuwait, which had reluctantly agreed to receive them.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has recently adopted a less confrontational style, renewing his promise not to fire on allied planes patrolling the two no-fly zones that cover substantial portions of northern and southern Iraq.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said that the United States was not looking for a showdown with President Saddam, but wants to

ensure that the no-fly zones are enforced. "We have sought no confrontation with Saddam Hussein. We never did and we don't now. Mr. Clinton told reporters at the Oval Office.

"We do seek enforce the no fly-zones" to ensure that pilots patrolling those skies are safe, he said.

The United States wants limit to Iraq's ability to threaten its neighbours in the south, Mr. Clinton said.

His remarks came as the Pentagon was pondering whether to send U.S. troops to Kuwait, which said earlier it will allow the forces on its territory as part of a military buildup in the Gulf.

"The president has a menu of options to choose from. Depending on the changing situation in the Middle East he could or could not decide to send those troops," said Lieu-

tenant Colonel Scott Campbell, a Pentagon spokesman.

Asked about whether he thought U.S. troops can be safe in the Gulf region, Mr. Clinton said his administration is aware that terrorism is a problem and will do everything it can to protect U.S. forces abroad.

He was speaking at a regional tour by the U.S. defence chief apparently failed to drum up much support for military action to contain President Saddam.

Defense Secretary William Perry warned Sunday that Iraq could face a new round of attacks unless it removes air defences in the south of the country posing a danger to U.S., British and French pilots enforcing "no-fly" zones for Iraqi aircraft.

(Continued on page 7)

Status of Iraqi Kurdistan subject of dialogue with Baghdad — Barzani

DUBAI (Agencies) — The status of Iraqi Kurdistan should be resolved through negotiations with Baghdad, the leader of the Iraqi-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said in an interview published Monday.

Meanwhile the Iraqi Kurdistan legislature chose a new "prime minister" at its first sitting since the Iraqi-backed KDP seized control of Erbil in northern Iraq.

Ruj Nuri Chawiss of the KDP was named to replace Kosrat Rassul of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), driven out of Erbil on Aug. 31 by KDP fighters and Iraqi troops.

The Kurdish "parliament" met for the first time since the inter-Kurdish fighting in Erbil, the main city of Iraqi Kurdistan and its self-declared capital since 1992.

Mr. Chawiss expressed "hope that the new government team will acknowledge the principle of multi-partyism, that peace and stability will be the rule in

Iraqi Kurdistan and that our neighbours will be reassured that we won't cause problems for them."

Of the 105 members of

parliament — 50 PUK, 50 KDP and five independents — 68 participated in the session Monday, including 17 PUK and 47 KDP

deputies, Hazem Al Yussufi, vice-president of the KDP deputies, said.

(Continued on page 7)



Fighters of the pro-Baghdad Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) atop a vehicle at a checkpoint at the entrance to the northern city of Erbil. A group of journalists on an Iraqi government-arranged visit to Erbil was banned from entering Erbil on Sunday (Reuters photo)

Foreign exchange reserves will be up by \$250 million by end of 1996

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan expects to increase its foreign exchange reserves by \$250 million by the end of this year after it receives funds pledged by donors at a meeting in Paris in July, Planning Minister Rima Khalaf said Monday.

Dr. Khalaf, addressing a weekly press briefing arranged by Information Minister Marwan Muasher, also rejected as totally groundless rumours that a "devaluation" of the Jordanian dinar was under consideration.

"There is no such discussion or consideration," said the minister.

Dr. Khalaf, who pointedly stayed away from assuming the posture of speaking on behalf of other government ministries or departments, did not provide an expected figure for the country's foreign exchange reserves, which is in the realm of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).



Rima Khalaf

"I can only tell you that we expect to build our foreign exchange reserves by \$250 million before the end of the year," she said.

Figures given by the CBJ show that the country's reserves now stand at around \$625 million. That meant an increase of \$200 million from the beginning of the year.

Dr. Khalaf also said the government had found that

it was not necessary to set up to a so-called redemption fund in foreign currency to handle the possibility of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) issuing a Palestinian currency. Such issuance could lead to a demand for dollars in exchange for Jordanian dinars now in circulation in the Palestinian territories, an eventuality that the planning minister had raised in April.

"Now we do not believe that such a fund is necessary, but, in any case, we are continuing to build our reserves to face any eventuality," she said without elaboration.

According to independent experts, the PNA appears to have shelved the idea of issuing its own currency for at least another two years, given the need to have hard cash or gold reserves to support the issuance.

Dr. Khalaf said Jordan expects to receive about \$600 million this year from

(Continued on page 7)

Hebronites demand reopening of market

HEBRON (AFP) — Hundreds of Palestinians staged a protest in this West Bank town Monday to demand the reopening of a fruit and vegetable market closed by the Israeli authorities two-and-a-half years ago.

Israeli security forces blocked the demonstrators from reaching the market, located close to Hebron's Jewish quarter, where some 400 settlers live, but witnesses said there were no confrontations.

The protesters were led by Hebron Mayor Mustapha Natshe and included many Palestinians who traded at the market and were deprived of their livelihood by the Israeli shutdown.

Israeli authorities closed the market in February 1994 to prevent violence between Arabs and Jews following the massacre of at least 30 worshippers by a Jewish extremist at the Ibrahim Mosque.

"We wanted to reopen our shops so we could return to our normal work," shopowner Mohammad Abdul Hadi Nasreddin told AFP. "But the police stopped us from reaching the shops."

Another shopowner, Sharif Al Rajabi, said: "The demonstration shows that we have not forgotten our property. We will sit outside on the doorsteps of our shops until we get our rights."

"We are staging peaceful demonstrations and there will be more and more if there is no response," he said. "But the situation could explode."

Mr. Natshe said he met afterwards with the head of the Israeli military administration for Hebron to "ask for at least a trial opening of the market followed by a security assessment. But that was refused."

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan pledges continued support for ICRC activities

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Monday that Jordan will continue its support for the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) because the Kingdom plays a pivotal role in the affairs of the Middle East region and is deeply concerned with its humanitarian issues.

Speaking at a meeting at the Royal Court with visit-

ing ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga, the Regent said he hoped that the ICRC will give special attention to the question of minorities and issues resulting from religious strife.

Mr. Sommaruga voiced appreciation to the Regent's relentless efforts in promoting humanitarian work.

"Prince Hassan's concern over humanitarian issues has given the ICRC further impetus to consolidate its

activities at the international level," said Mr. Sommaruga, who cited Mr. Hassan's call for the introduction of humanitarian service as a subject to be taught at schools as a reflection of the Regent's concern over humanitarian activities.

Prince Hassan hosted a dinner on Sunday in honour of heads of delegates attending the 26th meeting

(Continued on page 7)

Mubarak urges Netanyahu to build confidence with Arabs

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has said his country and Jordan, which have peace treaties with Israel, are afraid to keep going in that direction if Israel does not take a step toward the Arabs.

"So far, in the Arab world, only Egypt and Jordan are dealing with Israel and if we are not working towards peace then the countries which cooperate (with Israel) will be afraid," Mr. Mubarak said in remarks to be broadcast

Monday night on an Israeli television station.

"The Israeli Prime Minister (Benjamin Netanyahu) said he won't budge but something must be made clear. Take a step to appease your public opinion and Arab public opinion," Mr. Mubarak said.

"(Palestinian President Yasser) Arafat told me that the meeting with Netanyahu didn't yield anything. Not one step forward. The result is difficult, and we're the ones who take the fallout. We cannot

go against the current," he added, referring to the numerous Arab voices raised against those who deal with Israel.

"I'm calling for the Israeli government to be aware of this situation," he said. "There are agreements (concluded with the Palestinians) and if there isn't rapid progress he (Netanyahu) should at least take a first step," Mr. Mubarak said.

(Continued on page 7)

Prominent Muslim and Serb candidates take early lead

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The candidates of the three main Bosnian nationalist parties — Muslim, Croat and Serb — were well in the lead in the race for Bosnia's three-member joint presidency, with more than 200,000 votes counted, early official results said.

President Alija Izetbegovic, of the Muslim Party for Democratic Action, had 82.64 per cent of the vote against his chief rival for the seat reserved for a Mus-

lim Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), officials said. His rival, former Premier Haris Silajdzic, had 14.43 per cent.

The top Croat nationalist Kresimir Zubak, candidate for the Croatian Democratic Union, had moved into the lead with 90.79 per cent of votes counted for the Croat seat on the presidency, over his closest rival Ivo Komisc, a more moderate Croat. The results showed, And in the one municipal-

ity in the Serb-run half of Bosnia so far counted, Momcilo Krajcnik, leading candidate for the extreme Serb nationalist SDS, had 84.62 per cent of the votes cast, well ahead of his nearest rival Mladen Ivanic, the results showed.

The winner of the last elections, in 1990, Muslim rebel Fikret Abdic, scored under one per cent of the vote.

The results concerned the (Continued on page 7)

Iraq tops agenda of IAEA assembly

VIENNA (AFP) — Some 700 delegates from more than 100 countries gathered here Monday for the annual general assembly of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), with the situation in Iraq at the top of the agenda.

In his opening speech, IAEA Director General Hans Blix said the U.S.-Iraq crisis was preventing the agency carrying out some of its inspections in Iraq.

Under the terms of the U.N. resolutions passed at the end of the Gulf war in 1991, the IAEA was given the task of dismantling Iraq's nuclear arms programme by the U.N. Security Council.

Since then the Vienna-based agency has carried out "more than 600 inspections, the majority of which were conducted without prior notice," to ensure that Baghdad has not resumed its illegal nuclear activities, Mr. Blix said.

Following the first U.S. strike on Sept. 3, IAEA inspectors have remained in Baghdad and "continue their ongoing monitoring and verification activities," Mr. Blix said.

However, the agency's activities outside the capital will only resume when "conditions permit," Mr. Blix said, noting that fighting had seriously affected transport between Baghdad and the rest of the country.

IAEA spokesman David Kyd told AFP the agency had stopped inspections outside Baghdad because it needed a minimum of cooperation with the Iraqis.

According to Mr. Kyd, in Baghdad, the IAEA has three inspectors who have permanent accreditation from the Iraqi authorities.

In accordance with usual rota patterns, two other inspectors returned from Iraq last weekend and another left for the capital.

In his speech, Mr. Blix added that the IAEA was continuing its examination of more than 40,000 documents provided by Baghdad on its secret military programme, following the defection of General Hussein Kamel Hassan, a son-in-law, who was subsequently killed, of President Saddam Hussein.

He added that Iraq had a few days ago passed to the agency a "full, final and complete declaration" on its former nuclear programme.

Monday's meeting also saw Moldova's admission to the IAEA, which was passed unanimously by the 101 countries attending. In total, 124 countries belong to the IAEA.

Earlier one diplomat said, "if there is no new American military attack in Iraq, nothing much will come out of" the IAEA reunion.

Several senior officials are attending the conference, including U.S. Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary, Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhailov, Iranian Vice President Reza Amrollahi and Iraqi Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research Abd Al Ghafur.

The conference will approve the IAEA's 1997 budget (\$262.6 million) and a series of resolutions at the close of the meeting on Friday.

Resolutions regarding Iraq will be toned down compared with last year's text, in view of Baghdad's cooperation with the agency's inspection teams, IAEA sources said.

The conference will also approve a series of broad guidelines on a controversial plan to reinforce IAEA inspections in member countries, to prevent the development of illegal nuclear arms programmes.

Kabariti reaffirms support for Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday reviewed with Israeli parliament member and head of the Arab Democratic Party Abdul Wahab Darawsheh the general situation in the Middle East and the peace process.

Mr. Kabariti reasserted Jordan's stand in support of the Palestinian people's quest for freedom and independence.

Following the meeting, Mr. Darawsheh told Jordan Television that the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been laying obstacles in the path of peace.

"The present Israeli government continues to lay obstacles in the path of progress towards a comprehensive peace and the implementation of the Oslo accords with the Palesti-



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Monday meets with Israeli parliament member Abdul Wahab Darawsheh (Petra photo).

ans," said Mr. Darawsheh. "The Arab countries are currently exerting serious efforts to pressure Netanyahu into implementing the accords and comply with the requirements of peace," added Mr. Darawsheh. He urged all Arab countries to exert their

efforts towards helping the Palestinians in their quest for freedom and ensuring a lasting peace settlement.

Referring to Arab members of the Knesset and their endeavours, he said: "These deputies are doing all they can to win the support of the Israeli public in

pressing the Israeli government to implement the Oslo accords."

"Tomorrow the Knesset will hold an extraordinary session to examine the opposition's proposals that demand an Israeli withdrawal from Hebron and the execution of all agreements with the Palestinians," noted Darawsheh said. Expressing appreciation of Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Palestine cause, Mr. Darawsheh called on the Arab countries to work out an integrated plan to give momentum to the peace process.

He also voiced Palestinian people's appreciation of Jordan's arrangements for Arab students from Israel to join Jordanian universities, adding that this reflects the strong ties between the Jordanian and the Palestinian people.

Kabul: Pakistani elements damaging bilateral relations

KABUL (AFP) — The embattled Afghan government Monday accused elements in Pakistan of interfering in Afghanistan following the dramatic advances of the Taliban militia in eastern provinces.

The state high council said at a meeting here that "some elements" in Pakistan, including the interior minister, were trying to disrupt relations between Islamabad and Kabul.

The council asked Pakistan's Islamic parties, parliament, politicians and the people to block the involvement of the "selfish elements" in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, said Abdul Aziz Murad, a spokesman for President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

"We believe that there are some circles within Pakistan, including Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar, who do interfere in the home affairs of Afghanistan," Mr. Murad said.

Mr. Babar, a retired general, has been accused of backing the Taliban militia, a

charge he denies.

The Kabul government has frequently accused Pakistan of supporting the Taliban religious militia, which sprang up 22 months ago from the Koranic schools in southwestern Afghanistan with the goal of toppling Mr. Rabbani and enforcing Islamic law across the war ravaged country.

Pakistan also denies aiding the Taliban.

The militia last week overran two major provincial capitals in eastern Afghanistan — Jalalabad in Nangarhar province and Mehtarman of nearby Laghman province.

Mr. Murad alleged that Pakistan dispatched arms and ammunition to the Taliban in Nangarhar.

He also claimed that an officer of Pakistan's military intelligence service awarded a medal for heroism and \$500,000 cash to Mulla Borjan, a top Taliban commander who led the advance into the garrison city of Jalalabad.

The state-run Radio Kabul

claimed on Friday that jets flying from a Pakistani airbase in the border town of Peshawar bombed Sorobi, 70 kilometers east of Kabul.

Islamabad has denied Kabul's recent accusations of involvement in the Taliban's successive territorial gains and stressed its "complete neutrality" in the factional war in Afghanistan.

Kabul-Islamabad ties hit an all-time low in September last year when thousands of pro-government demonstrators who blamed Pakistan for the loss of western Herat province to the Taliban set the Pakistan embassy here on fire and beat up its diplomats, killing one employee.

Bilateral relations showed signs of improvement following the visit to Islamabad last month by a high-powered delegation led by Afghan Interior Minister Yunus Qanooni.

Pakistan accepted an official apology from Kabul and had agreed to consider reopening its embassy in Kabul.

Lebanese goes on trial for German fire

LUEBECK (R) — A young Lebanese refugee went on trial on Monday accused of starting a fire that killed 10 people last January in the worst disaster to hit an asylum-seekers' hostel in Germany.

Safwan Eid, a civil war refugee who had lived in the house in the northern city of Luebeck since 1990 with nine members of his family, was charged with aggravated arson and negligently causing bodily harm.

Prosecutors initially charged him with murder but later revised this.

The fire killed six people from Zaire, a man from Benin, a Lebanese and a woman from Angola with her six-year-old daughter. Thirty eight people were injured.

"Anti-racist and left-wing groups demonstrated outside the court to lobby for Mr. Eid's release, saying he was a victim of racial persecution and that the fire was a neo-Nazi attack."

West Bank farmer in 'fight to the finish' with Jewish settlers

AYNABUS, West Bank (AFP) — A 62-year-old Palestinian farmer here has been locked in a "struggle to survive" with a group of armed Jewish settlers who have shot at him, taken his land and burned his crops.

"I am a fish and these mountains are the sea. If they take me out I will die," Hisham Suleiman told AFP, pointing out to his fields outside Aynabus village, some 40 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

"But I'll never give up. It's better for me to die here," he said.

Mr. Suleiman stands against a group of residents from the nearby Jewish settlement of Yitzhar who last February set up 12 mobile homes in his fields of olives, grapes and pomegranates.

Mr. Suleiman eventually won a court order forcing their withdrawal, but settlers in three homes have refused to leave, and their mobile homes are still visible from Mr. Suleiman's house.

The remaining settlers, armed with guns, have since barred farmers from

reaching their fields, Mr. Suleiman and other villagers said.

"There are nearly 150 hectares of land in Aynabus and the neighbouring villages of Hawara and Orif which its owners could not work on this year because of the settlers," said Samih Yousef, a worker in Aynabus.

But alone among his neighbours, Mr. Suleiman has refused to back down.

Soon after arriving, the settlers burned down 350 of Mr. Suleiman's olive trees, and the blaze also took out

a barn and stables on his land, he said.

"I made a complaint to Israeli authorities which is still under review. But I decided to take matters into my own hands and rebuild the barn and replant the land," he said.

Later, one of the settlers got in a fistfight with Mr. Suleiman in his fields. Another settler who saw the fight shot at the old man, wounding him with shrapnel from the shot.

Last week, the settlers stole five of Mr. Suleiman's horses. One of his six sons,

Hazza, said he went into Yitzhar to retrieve them and was "beaten up and terrorised for three hours."

"I also lost a suitcase which held checks worth \$50,000 inside," said Mr. Hazza, who holds American citizenship. Three others of Mr. Suleiman's sons live in the United States.

Despite the clashes and the settlers' continuing presence on his land, Mr. Suleiman insists on walking his fields twice a day to survey the growing. "Why should a few people control the fates of three whole vil-

lages?" he said.

Around 145,000 Jewish settlers live in the West Bank, not including those in Arab East Jerusalem, most of them in settlements built close to Arab villages and towns, according to official statistics.

After he came to power in June, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced an end to the freeze on building settlements in the occupied West Bank which his Labour Party predecessors had imposed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Netanyahu to hold talks with Kohl in Bonn

BONN (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will later this month travel to Bonn to discuss the Middle East peace process with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a government spokesman said here Monday. During the day-long visit on Sept. 26, Mr. Kohl will be informed of the Israeli government's objectives and discuss ways of reinforcing ties between Israel and the European Union, deputy government spokesman Herbert Schmuller said. Meanwhile, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will on Thursday meet Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and German President Roman Herzog, as part of a two-day visit to the state of Hesse, west Germany. At the end of July, Mr. Netanyahu announced he would visit Germany in September and that Mr. Kohl would pay a return visit to Israel in October. The announcement followed an exchange of prisoners and corpses between Israel and the Hizbollah mediated by Bernd Schmidbauer, German budget minister.

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Arab League urges summit on Somalia in Yemen

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League called on rival Somali factions Sunday to take part in reconciliation talks in the Yemeni capital Sanaa at a date yet to be fixed. In a resolution adopted Sunday night after a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers, the league "invited Somali factions to take part in a reconciliation conference envisaged in Sanaa, with a view to setting up a national authority" in Somalia. An authoritative league source said the pan-Arab organisation wanted to put an end to the crisis in Somalia where clan fighting has prevented the establishment of a national government since the overthrow of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991. The sources said a date for the conference would be set after replies had been received from the various Somali factions.

Mayor killed after banning sale of alcohol

ANKARA (AFP) — The Muslim mayor of a Black Sea town was shot dead by the owner of a pub he had closed for selling alcoholic beverages, the Anatolia news agency said Monday. It said Nusret Ozyurt, the mayor of Persembek, 250 kilometres east of Istanbul, who had been elected from Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's pro-Islamic Welfare Party, died instantly after the attack in his office early Monday. The assailant, who had accused Ozyurt of ruining his business after closing his pub, was at large after the incident. In recent months, several Turkish mayors controlled by Welfare have limited the sale of alcohol and ordered the closure of many bars and restaurants where alcoholic beverages had been served.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
15:05.....Iris — The Happy Professor	
15:20.....Captain Planet	
15:45.....Comedy — ALF	
16:10.....Road to Avonlea	
16:15.....Bob Morrison Show	
17:00.....News Flash	
17:02.....Sciences Cartoon	
17:15.....La Vie Devant Moi	
17:30.....Game Show — Les Bons Guites	
18:00.....Varieties — L'Integrale: Patrick Gruel	
19:00.....Le Journal	
19:15.....Magazine — Ushuaia	
19:30.....News Headlines	
19:35.....U.N. Programme — Peacekeeping	
20:00.....Documentary — Man Alive	
20:30.....Encounter	
20:45.....U.N. A Common Goal — Documentary	
21:10.....Star Trek — The Next Generation	
22:00.....News in English	
22:00.....Mission Impossible	
23:15.....China Beach	
23:59.....My Two Wives	

PRAYER TIMES	
04:58.....Fajr	
06:16.....(Sunrise) Duha	
12:31.....Dhuhr	
16:01.....Asr	
18:45.....Maghreb	
20:03.....Isha	

CHURCHES

ST. MARY OF NAZARETH CHURCH	
Sweilish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366	
Anglican Church Tel. 652826	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Amman International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190	

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Temperatures are expected to

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
drop further becoming relatively cool at night but fine during the day. Skies will be partly cloudy and winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will hot and dusty, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.	
Amman.....16/27	
Aqaba.....23/36	
Deserts.....14/33	
Jordan Valley.....23/35	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 54 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Faysal Dabbas.....759155	
Dr. Fakher Bilbeis.....663412	
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul.....98140	
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Jerusalem holds key to a just peace — bishop

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday received Bishop Samir Qafeeti, head of the Arab Evangelical-Episcopal Church for Jerusalem and the Middle East, and expressed Jordan's appreciation of the Church's voluntary and charitable services to the entire Arab community with a particular emphasis on Arab Jerusalem.

Mr. Kabariti and the bishop reviewed the general situation in the holy city and the church's efforts to serve local Christian and Muslim communities.

Subsequent to the meeting, Bishop Qafeeti said they reviewed joint efforts by the church and the government in providing services to the Jordanian community as well as the political situation in Jerusalem.

When asked about the situation in Jerusalem, Bishop Qafeeti told Jordan Television that: "Jerusalem holds the key to a just and comprehensive peace in the region, a peace that should be enjoyed by the followers of the three monotheistic religions."

"There is no doubt that the Prime Minister as well



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti discusses status of Jerusalem with the head of the Arab Evangelical-Episcopal Church Bishop Samir Qafeeti (Petra photo)

as His Majesty King Hussein are both deeply concerned with maintaining the Arab and religious character of Jerusalem. I am honoured to have worked with Mr. Kabariti on the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs where we closely followed developments in the holy city," added the bishop.

He said: "Jerusalem is of utmost importance for Muslims and Christians as it holds the keys to peace for all people in the

region."

"Jerusalem is monopolised and occupied by the Israeli government and therefore the situation in the city is unstable and confused. Jerusalem should not be Judaised nor monopolised by one party but rather must be ruled by its own people and the followers of the three monotheistic religions have the right to this holy city and its sacred shrines," said Bishop Qafeeti.

"Therefore Jerusalem

should boast a special status to ensure a peaceful situation for everyone concerned. And all related religions and parties should participate in political, social and other matters connected to the city and have a say in ruling this city which must not remain under the rule of one party at the expense of the others. This city should be restored to its own people," he concluded.

Criminal Court asked to modify ruling on 'Udwan Mills' case

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Criminal Court is expected to issue a revised ruling on Oct. 8, in the retrial of nine persons, five of them of whom were sentenced to death last year, after defence attorneys Monday requested the court to follow the ruling of a higher court.

The defendants were part of a group of 12 people, including two women, known as "Udwan Mills," who were found guilty by the criminal court of committing five murders, several armed robberies, thefts,

attempted murder, kidnapping and fraud.

The Court of Cassation has been reviewing their case since June of 1995 and returned the case in April, ruling that the Criminal Court based its ruling on the defendants' confessions and neglected to study applicable evidence.

Ahmad Othman, one of four defence attorneys filed an appeal Monday asking the Criminal Court to follow the higher court's rulings.

Furthermore, Mr. Othman asked the court to throw out the defendant's confessions "as they were extracted under duress." During the past three

years, the court interrogated 160 witnesses in one of the longest cases to be reported in the Kingdom. The group was nicknamed "Udwan Mills" because they were captured in a police raid in the Udwan Mills village in Sukhneh.

Meanwhile, Criminal Court Prosecutor General Zuhair Al-Ayat, Monday announced that he has closed the case of three family members found dead in their Naour home on July 20, 1996 after determining it was a case of "murder/suicide."

The victims, Bebars Sadiq, 40, his 70-year-old mother, and his wife, Duha Seifeddin, 33, were

found by relatives in their Naour home. Each of the three victims were found to have sustained one bullet to the head.

According to Mr. Atiat, Mr. Sadiq had resigned from his job the day of the incident.

Upon returning home, Mr. Atiat stated, Mr. Sadiq had a fight with his wife and mother resulting from said resignation. Close relatives had said that Mr. Sadiq had financial problems and was depressed.

Mr. Sadiq retrieved his gun on the second floor, shot his mother, then went to his room and shot himself," the prosecutor general said.

Ozone protection spotlight in symposium

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat Monday opened a symposium regarding protection of the ozone layer and told his audience that at least ten industrial businesses have benefited from an international fund to substitute ozone-harmful substances with ozone-friendly ones.

The fund was established in 1987 to help countries implement necessary modifications in their production processes.

According to the Montreal Protocol of 1987,

certain chemicals such as chloro-fluorocarbons create apertures in the ozone layer of gas which protects the earth from dangerous levels of ultraviolet rays.

"Many factory owners have requested that the ministry acquire and provide financial assistance to aid in the conversion from damaging substances to less noxious ones," said the minister.

He stated that his ministry will submit proposals for 11 projects undertaken by various Jordanian industrial businesses to the so-titled Montreal Fund including one from the Jordan Petroleum

Refinery Company, adding that they will petition for at least \$7 million to help replace harmful substances with safe ones.

According to ministry sources, the Kingdom has thus far received a total of \$2.5 million from the \$510 million pledged by several nations at the Montreal Protocol, directed toward such conversions.

"The earth's atmosphere knows no borders and the damage to the ozone layer by any country will adversely affect the atmosphere of others and therefore combined international

efforts are required to deal with the depleted ozone," added the minister.

Director General of the General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP) Dr. Saleh Sahareh addressed the meeting outlining his department's endeavours to protect the ozone layer.

Organised at Jerusalem Hotel in Amman by the GCP to mark the World Day for the Protection of the Ozone, the meeting was attended by representatives of various government institutions and other related organisations.

Seminar studies ways to combine economy with preservation

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Specialists and decision-makers Monday called on all countries in the region to direct their attention to the development of a sustainable, non-polluting, less noxious industry that they may secure a clean environment for future generations.

"Jordan as well as other countries in the region are at the beginning of new economic developments and growth and our countries need to direct their track from the beginning to ensure a safe and clean environment," said Walter Rüdell, the representative of Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) in Jordan and Lebanon.

Mr. Rüdell was addressing a three-day conference entitled "Eco-Management in Industry and Trade," and said that this conference is a first attempt to bring vital information to the Jordanian business community to bolster economic growth in the country.

"Jordan is moving towards a new and more intensive economy and the Kingdom must consider the environmental impact of industrial development from the begin-

ning," he stated.

Mr. Rüdell stated that he is optimistic about Jordan uniting with the industrial economic community, "[and yet] to ensure its success we hope that the business community in Jordan will take action [on environmental related concerns] and make proper decisions."

As far as legally mandating a healthy environment, Mr. Rüdell pointed out that Parliament recently passed an environmental framework law "but is lacking the instruments to facilitate implementation."

"Jordan needs a system of legislation whereby the government can impose fines on industries which pollute while at the same time offering incentives for the industries who demonstrate willingness toward environmental protection," Mr. Rüdell said.

He said that economies can institute methods of maximising profit which are not dependant on resources depletion and environmental contamination.

"The group of politicians and environmentalists attending this seminar see obstacles and want to develop a new sustainable economic approach to

provide a bright future for coming generations," he said.

Through this conference, Mr. Rüdell added, specialists will try to develop a sustainable ecological economy while providing a link between organisations and people with innovative ideas.

"It is of singular importance to develop such an economy, because it is only this which will be able to provide new jobs in the future and guarantee a competitive market for the raw materials located in the Third World."

Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) Khalidoun Abu Hassan told those attending the meeting that domestic production and the economy both need a proper environment to ensure development.

"Continuous economic development will lead to high rates of growth unless it is surrounded by a clean environment free of pollutants," Mr. Abu Hassan said.

For this reason, he maintained, the ACI established a special department in 1991 which deals with environmental issues.

Its task, according to Mr. Abu Hassan, is to

control and monitor industrial pollution and its sources.

Moreover, the department attempts to direct industrialists' attention to the necessity of controlling pollution in a scientific and technical manner.

The conference states as its goal the introduction of an environmentally responsive economy and to familiarise participants with the instruments of ecological management.

Moreover, it is designed to convince economists and politicians that only an environmentally oriented, creative, market-led economy holds the potential of securing continued growth and the sustainable well being of nations and to offer the possibility of bridging the gap between economy and ecology.

The conference is in session at the Philadelphia Hotel, is organised by the ACI and the Jordan Environment Society (JES).

The gathering is directed towards businessmen, industrialists, politicians, professors, economists and journalists.

Lecturers come from Europe, Japan, Singapore as well as various nations of the Middle East.

VTC seminar delayed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will hold a general conference regarding the promotion of vocational training programmes in Jordan.

The conference will be held in December, instead of on Sept. 29 as previously announced, according to VTC Director-General Ali Nasrallah.

The conference will last three days and is scheduled to analyse reports dealing with vocational training policies, programmes, curricula, the labour market, unemployment, guest workers, vocational training requirements, investments, cooperation between vocational centres, economic and industrial business and job opportunities for Jordanian workers, said Mr. Nasrallah.

He added that the date of the meeting was postponed in order to allow more time for the participating researchers and the public and private institutions taking part in the meeting to prepare their positions.

Mr. Nasrallah also stated that specialists from the ministries of education, higher education, planning, labour, the Jordanian Armed Forces, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the VTC, Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Jordan Engineers Association, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Civil Service Commission, the National Commission for Population, the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and various universities will take part in the meeting.

The meeting will cover Jordanian vocational training programmes that they are increasingly adapted to the local and regional labour markets needs as well as gear vocational training to turn out highly qualified workers, said Mr. Nasrallah.

He said the meeting will also focus on intensification of media programmes to spread awareness among members of the public about the importance of vocational training for the national economy and implementation of socio-economic development projects.



Spokeswoman Rima Abu Dalbough confers with Lower House Speaker Sa'ad Srour (Petra photo)

Women's forum petitions parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNF) Monday presented a number of petitions to parliament pertaining to the participation of women in the public arena and requested that law makers take immediate action.

Spokeswoman Rima Abu Dalbough presented the requests to Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srour who said that the house will discuss these issues with due gravity and concern.

Mr. Srour acknowledged HRH Princess Basma, who strongly advocates such women-oriented groups in Jordan, for her continued efforts to promote women's

status and involve Jordanian women in political, social and economic forums.

Mr. Srour stated that the JNF, whose members have been elected to various municipal councils in Jordan, represents an important branch in the amplification of women's role in society.

He requested that Ms. Abu Dalbough and her group prepare a memorandum outlining their bids to be presented to the house saying he would follow up on these questions with the executive authority.

The group presented a list of requests ranging from the appointment of women graduates of community

colleges as teachers in the public schools to pensions for women.

Mr. Abu Dalbough said that the JNF has been striving to promote the role of women in various fields and has succeeded in paving the way for women as elected to parliamentary and municipal councils.

Late last month, Mr. Srour received a delegation representing female members of non-governmental organisations and women's unions who, among other things, pressed for the debate of an electoral amendment securing a 20 per cent quota of parliamentary seats allotted to women.

Technical training programmes modified for the Arab World

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from Jordan, Syria, Yemen and Palestine Monday opened a two-day symposium on the preparation of programmes for vocational and technical training in the Arab World.

"We hope that the reports presented here will demonstrate how programmes can be geared towards meeting the requirements of Arab labour markets as well as ways to coordinate such programmes in the countries which are participating in the conference," said Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh in an address to the opening session.

"The participants expect to benefit from the advanced technology of developed nations in

terms of vocational training methodology and how to better meet the needs of the local labour markets," he added.

He said that the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has been serving in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour in providing the labour market with qualified and skilled labour for diverse occupations and in helping address unemployment.

He explicated the symposium's purpose as designed to help the participants prepare vocational and technical training programmes which are appropriate to the requirements of Jordanian and regional labour markets.

VTC Director General Ali Nasrallah outlined

the corporation's achievements as well as its drive to sharpen instructors' skills to better cope with the growing demand for skilled workers.

He said that the VTC is newly involved in constructing a metal industries institute as well as a chemical industries centre directed towards training programmes.

These programmes will be implemented with the aid of the International Labour Organisation.

The meeting has been organised by the VTC in cooperation with the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

What's Going On

FILMS

- * "Moliere" (Pt. I) at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.
- * Children's film "Danger Mouse" at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.
- * Iranian film "Narjis" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

THIRD JORDANIAN CHILDREN'S SONG FESTIVAL

- * Presentation of contesting children's songs at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m. (contest songs are from Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen and Jordan).

EXHIBITIONS

- * Basketry exhibition (with a variety of wrought iron furniture mixed with basketry) at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 699141/2), until Oct. 10.
- * Water colours works by Salam Kanaan and Pia Hayes at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639303), until Sept. 26.
- * "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (including sculptures by Vera Tamari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khammash, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.
- * Works by artists from France, Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt entitled "Tapis Volants" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 24.
- * Works by Batoul Al Fakiki at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Sept. 17.

Clinton to get biggest police backing in setback for Dole

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton travels to Ohio Monday to collect the endorsement from the country's biggest police group — its first ever for a Democrat — as crime returned to centre stage in the presidential campaign.

News that the National Fraternal Order of Police would endorse Mr. Clinton at a campaign rally in Cincinnati leaked out Sunday and threatened to steal the limelight from Republican challenger Bob Dole, who is due to unveil a crime-fighting package in Philadelphia Monday.

Both candidates are focusing on anti-crime efforts in light of recent polls that show crime is one of Americans' main concerns.

A Washington Post poll conducted with 4,000 adults from June 20 to Aug. 4 and released Sunday showed that 61 per cent of Ameri-

cans worried "a great deal" about crime, ranking it second only behind worries about the nation's schools.

Sen. Dole has honed in these concerns, accusing Mr. Clinton, who admitted during the 1992 campaign to having smoked marijuana — albeit without inhaling — of being soft on crime and drugs.

Mr. Clinton has responded forcefully, proposing this week that prison inmates and parolees be required to undergo drug testing and treatment, and releasing already-authorised spending for state drug programmes.

To which Sen. Dole replied that Mr. Clinton had appropriated his ideas and that his attention to the issue has come too late in his administration to be effective.

But Mr. Clinton's campaign was gloating over the latest endorsement Sunday.

and one campaign official said it underlined the difference between the two candidates.

"You have one candidate running on his record, and another running on empty," he said.

Sen. Dole's crime-fighting plan, to be announced at a meeting with Republican governors, includes ending the release of violent criminals who have only partially completed their sentences, making violent juveniles "accountable for their crimes," and requiring convicts to work while in prison and pay compensation to their victims.

It also includes a nationwide instant check system to stop criminals from buying guns.

But the television cameras are likely to be focused on Mr. Clinton flanked by police officers instead. Mr. Clinton has already

won the endorsement of two other major police groups, the International Union of Police Organisations and the National Union of Police Organisations, but the Fraternal Order of Police is by far the biggest.

"The president has a very impressive record of fighting crime and no one knows that better than the police on the street," the Clinton campaign official said.

He cited Mr. Clinton's work on the crime bill, a law to ban assault weapons, the so-called Brady Law, which requires a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases, and federal subsidies to put an additional 100,000 police on the street.

No comment was immediately available from the National Fraternal Order of Police.

Hong Kong moves Vietnamese boatpeople from island camp

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong set in motion its biggest mass transfer of Vietnamese boatpeople Monday when police began moving thousands of the illegal immigrants from a remote island to a high-security camp.

Police boats bobbed near the pier at the Tai A Chau Island camp as guards herded 496 inmates on board special ferries and shipped them to the Whitehead Detention Camp in the rural New Territories area, to get them ready for repatriation.

Monday's operation — the first of about 10 to clear the 5,500 inmates from the island — was completed without violence.

Reporters watched from a distance from aboard a boat as the Vietnamese left their huts and moved towards the jetty.

A long column of the boatpeople — including elderly people and entire families of men, women and children — filed along the jetty clutching bundles of possessions. Some smiled at the reporters and cameramen as they left the island.

There were no signs of violent resistance or self-inflicted injuries that have marked other mass transfers of Vietnamese illegals in Hong Kong and in nearby countries such as Thailand.

"I'm not surprised at all because in the past few years the Tai A Chau boatpeople have been very cooperative, very peaceful and abided by the camp's rules," Assistant Police Commissioner Benny Ng said of Monday's smooth transfer.

Over the next nine days police will ship a similar number per day to clear the small island, which lies off the coast of Lantau, the largest isle in the Hong Kong archipelago. Mr. Ng was confident the rest of the runs would be equally peaceful.

The operation is a crucial phase in the accelerated drive to empty Hong Kong's camps by forced and voluntary repatriations before the British colony is handed back to China in mid-1997.

Beijing insists they must



A young Vietnamese detainee peers out from the mesh covered window of his Tai A Chau Island detention camp room Monday. Hong Kong set in motion its biggest mass transfer of Vietnamese boatpeople when police began moving thousands of illegal immigrants from the remote island to the top security Whitehead detention camp (Reuters photo)

all be gone. But Hong Kong is not the only place wiping clean the boatpeople slate. Similar drives across south East Asia have been under way this year to clear the camps and send the illegal migrants home.

Hong Kong has virtually halved its population of boatpeople to about 12,000 through repatriations.

Authorities have consolidated the camp network through closures, mergers and transfers over the past few months.

The detainees are the last of a flood of tens of thousands of Vietnamese who fled their country after the Communists won the Vietnam War in 1975.

Police launches escorted the ferries departing from Tai A Chau in case detainees tried to leap into the sea and escape.

A firefighting boat was also deployed, and para-

medic units were stationed on the island in case of violence.

"We hope that by transferring them to Whitehead, more boatpeople will be encouraged to apply for voluntary repatriation," said security branch spokesman Mak Kwok-Wah.

"The voluntary repatriation level has been very low at Tai A Chau. There were only 170 or so volunteers there last year," he told reporters at the scene.

Whitehead was rocked by fierce rioting in May when inmates burned down part of the camp and attempted a mass breakout. The fugitives were quickly rounded up.

Tai A Chau was also hit by a riot in 1989 after the first wave of repatriations, when police had to beat a hasty retreat from the island in the face of overwhelming violence.

U.K. ready for fierce fight over Hong Kong democracy

HONG KONG (AFP) — Britain will fight Beijing's plans to scrap Hong Kong's Legislative Council next year, a British minister said here Monday.

The Foreign Office minister for Hong Kong, Jeremy Hanley, told reporters Britain did not accept China's plan to set up a Provisional Legislature and did not regard the dismantling of the territory's current elected mini-parliament as inevitable.

"We will continue to try to persuade the Chinese that it is a thoroughly bad idea," Mr. Hanley said after meeting Governor Chris Patten and his top advisers.

"I was very firm when we talked about the Provisional Legislature in Peking last week," Mr. Hanley said.

Britain was "trying to impress upon them not just the undesirability of it but also the practical difficulties that would flow from a decision of that sort," Mr. Hanley said.

"We do not regard it as being inevitable. We hope therefore that wiser counsels will be adhered to."

He said British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind would bring up the matter when he meets his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in New York this month.

"As far as we are concerned, the future of Hong Kong is a big issue and anything that is likely to dent the confidence in the future of Hong Kong for U.S. is very important."

"We will continue to fight very fiercely for the fact that Legco (the Legislative Council) has been properly elected and should continue in operation," Mr. Hanley said.

During a visit in March, Prime Minister John Major vowed to mobilise international support for Hong Kong should China go ahead with its plans for the territory.

Mr. Hanley refused to be drawn on what action Britain might take after the vote, although other British officials have said the matter could be taken up in the international courts.

Beijing has just concluded a month-long nomination period for candidates to sit in a Selection Committee which will choose Hong Kong's first post-handover legislature and chief executive.

Over 6,000 applications were received for the 400 seats.

Mr. Hanley said that, in general, Sino-British relations were improving, although there was no room for complacency.



President Bill Clinton (right) waves to the crowd as he sits on a bale of hay along with Iowa Senator Tom Harkin (left) as they wait to be introduced before addressing Sen. Harkin's 19th annual Steak 'n' Chop Fry in Indianola Monday (Reuters photo)

Hutu rebel leader's group 'takes control' of presidential party

NAIROBI (AFP) — The Standing Leadership Committee of the Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU), which includes Hutu rebel leader Leonard Ntubunganya, Monday stated that it was back taking control of the party.

In a statement faxed to AFP in Nairobi, the committee said that in the next few days it will elect a new chairman of FRODEBU, the party of President Sylvestre Ntibunganya, who was ousted in a bloodless army coup in July.

This chairman would be the interim movement of the party and manage its affairs until a full party congress is held. FRODEBU had a majority in the parliament suspended by the coup leader, Major Pierre Buyoya, who last week promised to reinstate the assembly.

Mr. Ntubunganya is the leader of the National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD), an opposition party with an armed wing which has been fighting the Tutsi-dominated army in the small central African highland nation.

FRODEBU's current chairman, Jean Minani, is not a member of the Standing Committee. Currently in Tanzania, he was not available Monday morning for comment on the com-

monique. The statement said that of the committee's original 14 members, eight were still alive. They included Mr. Ntubunganya, Mr. Nyangoma and the latter's deputy Christian Sendegeya, who for the past two years have been considered FRODEBU dissidents.

The statement was signed by all surviving members of the Nairobi but for Mr. Ntubunganya, a Hutu who took refuge in the U.S. embassy in Bujumbura on July 23, after being stoned by Tutsis two days before Maj. Buyoya seized power.

Arrest warrants are out for both Mr. Nyangoma, a former interior minister who opposes any power-sharing between Burundi's Hutu majority and the Tutsis, and Mr. Sendegeya, because of their role in uprising against the Tutsi-led army.

Tutsis were the traditional rulers of Burundi and Mr. Buyoya was head of state before free elections in June 1993 brought the first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, to office. Ndadaye's assassination in a failed army coup in October that year triggered bloodshed that escalated into a civil war, which has claimed at least 150,000 lives according to Amnesty International.

Since Maj. Buyoya seized back power last July 25 and scrapped parliament, at least 40 FRODEBU members of parliament have rallied to the rebels. In June 1993, the party won 65 seats in the National Assembly, but a score of its MPs were slain in the ethnic violence that followed Ndadaye's murder.

Speaking in Brussels on Sept. 6, Mr. Minani did not rule out taking up arms against the Buyoya regime, but he stated that possible cooperation between his party and the CNDD was still open to debate.

Maj. Buyoya on Sept. 12 announced that he was unbanning political parties and restoring parliament, meeting some of the demands of neighbouring countries which imposed a hard-hitting economic embargo on Burundi in protest against the coup d'état.

Spearheaded by Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire, the group imposing the sanctions has also demanded that the regime negotiate with the Hutu rebels, but the Buyoya government has said it will not do so until they lay down their arms and "renounce a policy of genocide."

The rebels have for their part said they will not talk to "putschists."

Romania, Hungary sign friendship pact

TIMISOARA, Romania (AFP) — The prime ministers of Romania and Hungary, Nicolae Vacaroiu and Gyula Horn, signed a controversial friendship treaty Monday aimed at ending decades of bilateral tension.

Romanian President Ion Iliescu, Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu and Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs also attended the signing of the treaty, hammered out after five years of tough negotiations.

Outside the government building, hundreds of nationalist demonstrators massed to demonstrate against the accord, which has triggered loud protests on both sides of the border.

Bucharest and Budapest, however, have hailed the treaty, seen as a condition to the two countries' accession to NATO and the European Union.

Mr. Iliescu said: "The signing of this document represents an important moment for the future of the

process of historic reconciliation between Romania and Hungary and will have beneficial effects for the stability of the region in Europe."

The Romanian head of state said the treaty reflected the "realism and political courage of the two governments" and would enable "psychological barriers which have often led to discord and even tension in bilateral relations" to be surmounted.

Mr. Horn added: "Through this treaty, we are undertaking to ensure that the dignity of the Romanians and the Magyars is no longer damaged, and the protection of their rights."

Hungarian nationalists argue that the treaty fails to guarantee minority rights for Romania's 1.7 million-strong ethnic Hungarians, while Romanian right-wingers say it paves the way for Hungary to annex the Romanian region of Transylvania.

Protesters Monday brandished signs saying "No to this criminal treaty" and "We will not sell our people."

They were trailed by others who support the pact and consider it the only way to avert the sort of ethnic conflicts that have scarred some eastern European neighbours.

Mr. Iliescu told journalists that Timisoara, which is near the border with Hungary and the rump Yugoslavia, was chosen for the signing because it is "a model site for the coexistence of Romanians, whatever their origin."

Beyond its strong ethnic Hungarian minority, the town also has significant ethnic Serb and German communities.

The treaty is designed to ease longstanding tension over a territorial settlement imposed by the 1920 Versailles Treaty, under which Hungary ceded some three-fifths of its territory, including Transylvania which was transferred to Romania.

Shuttle blasts off for Mir rendez-vous

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AFP) — The space shuttle Atlantis lifted off Monday for its fourth rendez-vous with the orbiting Russian Mir space station and to bring back record-setting U.S. astronaut Shannon Lucid, NASA said.

Atlantis blasted off without incident as scheduled at 4:54 a.m. (0854 GMT) with a six-member crew aboard. The meeting with the Russian craft was set for Wednesday, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said.

When the shuttle returns to Earth Sept. 26 after its 10-day mission, Lucid will have spent 188 days in space.

Her extended space odyssey, stretched out several months, meant Lucid broke the U.S. duration aloft record for a single mission as well as the international record for women.

The 53-year-old biochemist and mother of three began her Mir stay in March. She was to have returned to Earth in August but problems with the shuttle rocket solid boosters grounded earlier flight attempts.

Hurricane Fran, which churned up the U.S. east coast, further postponed a Sept. 14 takeoff until Monday.

Lucid joined the astronaut programme in 1979. She

has flown four times on a shuttle before this mission. In 1983, 1989, 1991 and 1993, for a total of 838 hours in space prior to the Mir mission.

Her Russian crewmates, Valery Korzun and Alexander Kaleri will remain aboard Mir, joined by U.S. astronaut John Blaha, 54. His four-month stay will make him the third American to live aboard the Earth-orbiting vessel.

The shuttle astronauts are also scheduled to conduct experiments related to protein crystallisation in zero gravity, electric superconductors, mammal tissue growth and its reactions to contamination.

Brazil sees political foul play behind goat's death

BRASILIA (R) — Police were investigating the suspicious death of a goat standing for mayor in a northern Brazilian town, newspapers reported. Frederico the goat had been leading in opinion surveys in Pilar, 38 kilometres from the city of Maceio, since his owner Petrucio Maia launched the animal on the campaign trail as a protest candidate in October's municipal elections. Maia told the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper he thought his goat had been poisoned by a political rival. "He had a lot of foam in his mouth," he said. Last weekend, inhabitants of Pilar drove in a convoy of 50 vehicles through town in support of Frederico's candidacy. The election bandwagon was shot at, newspapers said.

Britons plan first all-woman North Pole trek

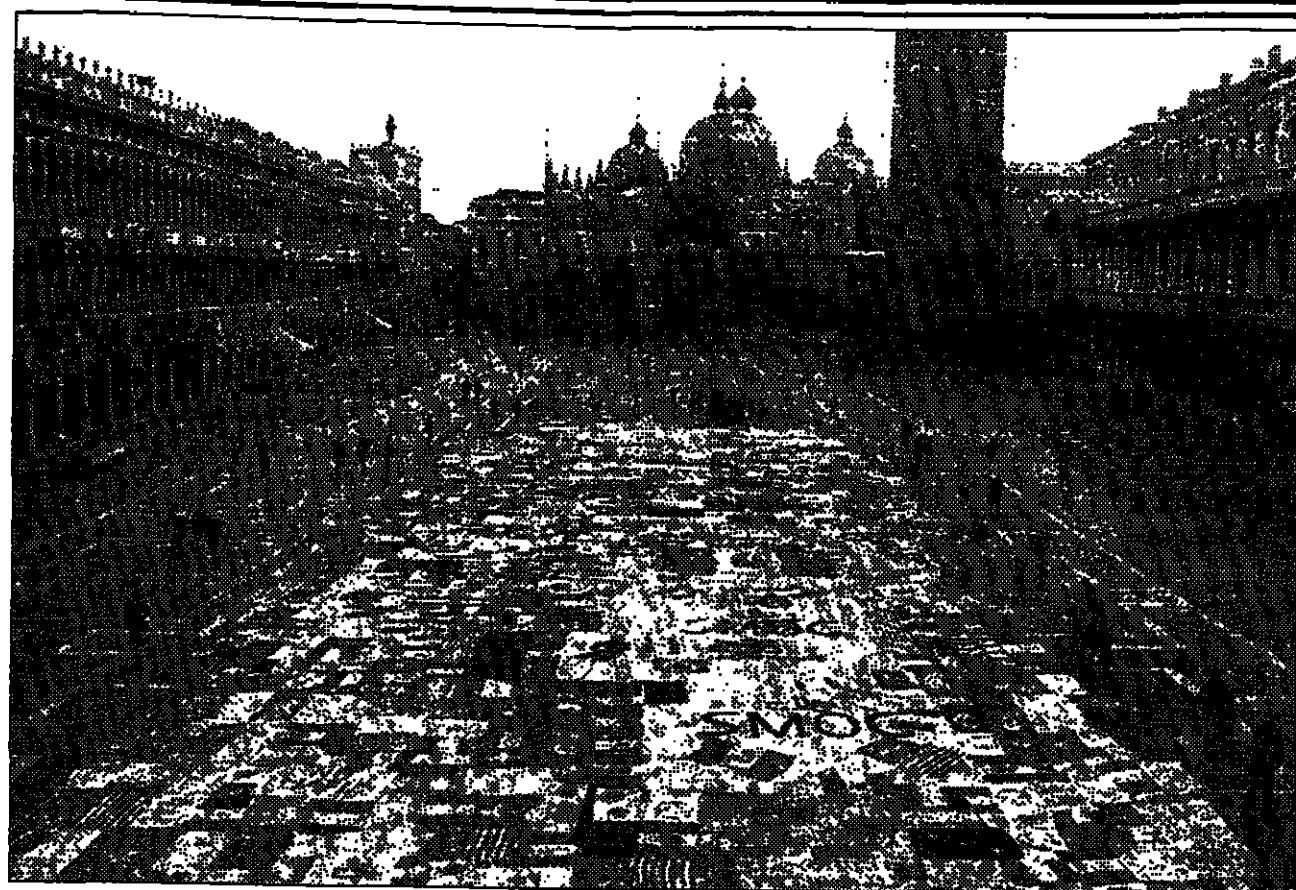
LONDON (R) — Twenty British and Irish women were named to mount the first all-female expedition to the North Pole, hauling sledges 1,000 kilometres. Picked from 60 applicants after an exhausting two-day weekend of swimming, hiking and abseiling exercise on southwest England's rugged Dartmoor, they will pay £1,500 each to the Polar Travel Company for next spring's adventure. "The squad comprises 20 of the strongest, most courageous women I have ever met," said Polar Travel Director Pen Hadow. "Some of the women have been preparing for six months already, and are incredibly fit." The team includes mother and daughter Sue and Victoria Riches. "I was 50 this year and decided I wanted to do something. My daughter said she was going to have a go and asked why didn't I try it as well," said Sue Riches, whose daughter is 25. Two women, an American and a Japanese, have reached the North Pole in otherwise male expeditions.

Files send Manila's Dirty Harry off to new war

MANILA (R) — A Philippine mayor who shut hundreds of bars in an effort to rid Manila of prostitutes is on the warpath again — against flies and cockroaches. Blaming them for the death of seven people in a cholera outbreak in the capital, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim offered cash to residents who capture the insects. Scores of residents queued up at the poor Paco district to be paid for capturing nearly 2,000 flies and cockroaches that they had brought in plastic bags. Officials paid them 15 pesos (about six U.S. cents) for each bag of 10 flies or 10 cockroaches, which were later burned. Mr. Lim said he would pay bigger money — 20 centavos (about eight cents) — for a rat. More than 300 people have been hospitalised with cholera caused, officials said, by contaminated water and food. Mr. Lim earned the label "Dirty Harry" — after a trigger-happy Hollywood character played by American actor Clint Eastwood — in the Manila press for his tough methods in dealing with criminals while he was Manila's police chief.

'Extinct' rat rediscovered in Australia

DARWIN, Australia (AFP) — A native rodent thought to be extinct has been found living in a remote arid region in the central Australian plains. The central rock-rat (Zyomys Pedunculatus) was last recorded more than 35 years ago in the rugged West MacDonnell Ranges, west of Alice Springs. A number of the rare rats were found living in isolated pockets of the mountains by volunteers building a trail through the national park.



Overall view of hundreds of banners placed in St. Mark's Square in favour of a united Italy, counter the rally by the Northern League which capped off three days of demonstrations across northern Italy Sunday. Northern League leader Umberto Bossi, declared independence for his self-styled state of Padania at the closing rally (Reuters photo)

Italy's Bossi suffers setback but remains a force

VENICE, Italy (R) — The morning after Umberto Bossi formally declared "independence" for "Padania," Italians living in the supposed new northern federal republic were not surprised to find nothing changed Monday.

The same lire bought the same newspaper and capuccino as ever and Italian flags remained in place.

"The north leaves Bossi alone," declared the former Communist daily newspaper L'Unita in a front page headline, judging like many people that Mr. Bossi had lost his bet.

But although the media trumpeted a failure for Mr. Bossi's bid to split the wealthy north of Italy away from what he has denounced as the corrupt, mafia-ridden south, "political commentators cautioned that the separatist was far from finished."

"Declaring victory," as some "Italian" politicians will, would be a mistake," said Sergio Romano in a front-page column in the leading northern daily newspaper La Stampa.

"If the opera is a comic one and the leading actor an

uncontrollable ham, the gist of the libretto remains nonetheless serious and dramatic," Mr. Romano commented.

Former lower house Speaker Irene Pivetti, a moderate who was expelled from Mr. Bossi's Northern League group in parliament last week, said Sunday that Mr. Bossi's secessionist drive had finished him and destroyed any credibility he had.

But Giulio Anselmo, in Milan's Corriere Della Sera, dismissed any suggestion that the League was a spent force.

"The movement has a modest base of militants, ultra hardliners ready to follow their boss anywhere and anywhere a mass of voters who may be reluctant to follow him down the secessionist path but who remain strong," he said.

Commentators said the fundamental grievances of many northerners — the perception of corrupt institutions and high taxes to fund an incompetent bureaucracy that favoured the impoverished south — were still to be resolved.

Ezio Mauro, editor of the Rome daily La Repubblica, warned that Mr. Bossi's failure to mobilise the masses could only force the fiery separatist to espouse a more moderate position "given that the League leader cannot now turn back."

In declaring independence, Mr. Bossi said Padania was "a sovereign and independent federal republic" and announced a temporary constitution and provisional government.

The League also read out a 10-point "bill of rights for the citizens of Padania" in which the formation of a Padanian National Guard was to be set up to defend the state.

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Interior Minister Giorgio Napolitano both warned Mr. Bossi that if he converted his angry rhetoric into action, he risked legal action.

Mr. Bossi had called for one million of his supporters to form human chains along the banks of the River Po, which bisects northern Italy and runs through the country's industrial heartland, Sunday to show the

strength of his support.

In the end, by the universal reckoning of the media if not of the Northern League, some 130,000 turned out. The declaration in Venice drew an estimated 18,000 people.

By nightfall, there were no flags fluttering in St. Mark's Square and the only sound was of the cafe orchestras serenading their well-heeled clients with classical music.

The numbers in Venice compared with some 150,000 who turned out in Milan to demonstrate for Italian unity.

All newspapers recognised Gianfranco Fini, leader of the hard right National Alliance who organised the Milan march, as the big winner of the weekend.

"The government parties have been shown up as weak and uncertain over what response to give, making do with irony," said Mr. Anselmo in the Corriere Della Sera. "Only Fini had the courage to take to the field and accept the challenge."

Grieving parents mount crusade on Belgian judiciary

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The grieving parents of dead and missing children have taken the lead in a crusade for a purge of Belgium's judiciary after allegations of serious shortcomings in recent investigations into a paedophile network and the murder of a prominent politician in 1991.

The parents say they have a duty to ensure that the same mistakes which allowed known paedophiles to operate with impunity even as police were searching for several missing children, must never happen again.

A total of 500,000 photographs of eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, who were abducted last year, sexually abused then left to starve to death, were collected within 24 hours from post offices all over Belgium.

Simultaneously, revelations about the 1991 murder of former Socialist Minister Andre Coels, implicating several of his former colleagues, have reinforced calls for an overhaul of the political system and judiciary and for new laws to close existing loopholes.

On Friday, the Lejeune and Russo parents presided at a meeting in Liege of relatives of young people abducted or who have disappeared during the past ten years in Belgium.

"Today, we have the great responsibility of never letting people forget, of refusing to allow ourselves to be fobbed off with promises which are never kept, draft legislation which gathers dust in the drawers and parliamentary debates which lead nowhere," Carino Russo, the mother of Melissa said.

In a Belgium still split along linguistic lines between French-speaking wallons and the Flemish, the mobilisation in both communities is particularly symbolic.

The impression of unanimity was accentuated by the presence in the front row at the meeting of the sister of Loubna Benaissa, 9 who disappeared in Brussels in 1992.

"We form a big family, united in grief, in the questions it asks and in the search for the truth," she said.

The parents have decided to form a foundation to provide help to other parents concerned by similar tragedies and also to press for magistrates to be given the means to investigate suspected paedophiles without hindrance.

King Albert II meanwhile

braved critics who accused him of exceeding his prerogatives, to call for an enquiry to expose the shortcomings in the judicial investigation launched after the disappearance of Melissa and Julie and of two other girls later found dead.

Since the discovery and rescue a month ago of Laetitia Delhez and Sabine Dardenne after they too had been kidnapped by paedophiles, the investigation has made great strides.

The focus has now shifted from Marc Dutroux, the chief suspect at whose homes four of the dead girls were found, to a Brussels property agent, Jean-Michel Nihoul whose links with business and political circles were exposed this week by the daily La Derniere Heure.

Hashimoto may win election battle with partners

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is expected to push through plans this week to clear political uncertainty confronting the country by announcing an election date, news reports said Monday.

The leader of the right wing Liberal Democratic Party wants an election on Oct. 20 and will attempt Thursday to persuade leaders of the smaller Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the New Party Sakigake, Jiji Press news agency said.

Former Premier Tomiichi Murayama who heads the left wing SDP and Sakigake leader Shioichi Ide have opposed early elections while a new centrist party is being set up. But party sources quoted by Jiji said they are likely to give in at the meeting.

Mr. Hashimoto cleared the main obstacle for elections last week when he ended a one-year old dispute with the southern prefecture of Okinawa over leases for U.S. military bases.

Media reports say the cabinet will probably decide Friday to convene a special session of parliament on Sept. 27 to allow the premier to dissolve the powerful lower house.

The looming election has focused attention on a new liberal party to be led by Health Minister Naoto Kan, the Sakigake vice-president, and one of the most popular politicians in the country, and his former party colleague Yukio Hatoyama.

The new party hopes to be "a third force" to challenge the LDP, which has 206 seats in parliament, and the opposition conservative group, New Frontier Party (NFP), which has 167 seats.

It would also have a decisive say in parliament and

become a possible coalition partner for either the LDP or the NFP if neither can get a majority at the next election.

Mr. Kan, Mr. Hatoyama and two other promoters of the new party — Hatoyama's younger brother Kunio Hatoyama and SDP lawmaker Tomiko Okazaki — will set up a preparatory committee Tuesday to launch "the Democratic Party" one week after the lower house is dissolved.

About 30 lawmakers from Sakigake, the SDP and small opposition groups are expected to join the party, but its final size will depend on how well disagreements among the backers can be contained.

While Mr. Kan wants a broad alliance of liberals from the SDP and Sakigake, the Hatoyama brothers are seeking exclusion of veteran members of the two parties, particularly former Premier Murayama and former Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura. They say the two are "incompatible" with the fresh image the new party seeks.

"In order to establish a cabinet that can effectively tackle pending administrative reforms, we need veteran lawmakers," Mr. Kan said at the weekend, calling for Mr. Takemura's participation.

Other senior Sakigake members have said they would not join the new party if Mr. Takemura does not.

The SDP meanwhile decided last week to let all its lower house members join the Democratic Party, although Kunio Hatoyama, who quit the NFP to tie up with his brother, is opposed to the Socialists' participation in bloc.

The Mainichi Shimbun newspaper said the success of the party would depend on Mr. Kan's "coordinating power" to settle the disputes.

Lebed prepares new mission as fighting breaks Chechen ceasefire

MOSCOW (AFP) — Top Russian negotiator Alexander Lebed prepared for a new mission to Chechnya Monday in the wake of the first major ceasefire violation in Grozny and problems in implementing a crucial political accord.

Gen. Lebed, who brokered the peace accord last month, will fly to Chechnya Tuesday to meet the commander of Russian troops, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, and Chechen Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov, a Lebed spokesman said.



A Chechen fighter (left) and a Russian Interior Ministry serviceman, enemies in the not too distant past, prepare to head out on a joint patrol of Grozny. Following a peace deal reached in August, which put a halt to fighting in this breakaway republic, Grozny is being policed and defended by joint patrols of separatist guerrillas and Russian forces (Reuters photo)

The main issues will be a deadlock over exchange of prisoners of war, the suspended Russian troop withdrawal and formation of a coalition government to rule until free elections are held, the spokesman told ITAR-TASS news agency.

Gen. Lebed met with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin for an hour to discuss Chechnya, Interfax News Agency said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was later to also meet with Doku Zavgayev, head of the pro-Moscow government, which ruled in areas held by Russian troops until a major separatist offensive this August, ITAR-TASS said.

Gen. Lebed's latest visit comes against a background of increasing tension in the tiny republic and a bitter reaction in Moscow to the peace process, seen by nationalists and hardliners as a sell-out to the Chechen independence rebellion.

Reports from Grozny said that a fierce attack, involving small arms, mortars and rocket launchers, was made against Russian positions near a big military base at the Severnyy Airport in northern Grozny.

It was the first serious violation of the ceasefire signed on Aug. 22, but it was unclear who was responsible.

Interfax reported Monday that the fighting was quelled by Chechen rebels and Russian soldiers from a joint force set up to enforce the ceasefire in the city.

The Joint Force, which has a total of about 550 men, cordoned off the area and then searched for the assailants, Interfax said.

Chechen rebel spokesman Movladi Udugov described the attack as "a serious battle." Echo Moscow radio reported. However, Interfax reported that no one was killed.

ITAR-TASS said that provocateurs trying to upset the fragile peace process might be to blame.

Although the ceasefire period has been the calmest in Grozny and the rest of Chechnya since the bloody war began in Dec. 1994, the two sides remain far from addressing the political causes for the war.

The peace deal signed

Aug. 31 by Gen. Lebed and Mr. Maskhadov officially ended the war and laid the groundwork for a political solution by ordering the withdrawal of Russian troops and delaying any final decision on Chechnya's political status for up to five years.

However, the provision for freezing the debate over Chechnya's self-declared independence, which Russian troops have failed to crush in 21 months of fighting, has been heavily criticised in Moscow.

The fiercest critics, such as Zavgayev, have even labelled Gen. Lebed a traitor.

Another stumbling block has been the exchange of prisoners, with both sides accusing the other of making impossible demands.

Last week, Gen. Tikhomirov suspended the troop withdrawals until all prisoners were released, sparking

tensions among the Chechen rebels, who have said that a Russian pull-out is their main demand.

Attempts by the rebels to organise the formation of a coalition government, including several anti-independence figures, have also run into opposition in Moscow.

On Sunday, Gen. Lebed said that the rebel proposals were insufficient, because they did not include leaders of the pro-Moscow government.

He said other parties "simply are afraid" to join the rebels' proposed coalition.

An estimated 40,000 people have died in the war.

Two previous peace processes have collapsed. The latest effort came in the wake of a stunning rebel offensive in early August, when they recaptured Grozny and caused heavy losses among the Russian forces.

Yeltsin stays in hospital for further tests

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, undergoing a series of medical tests at Russia's Central Clinical Hospital, will spend another two days as an in-patient there, the Presidential Press Office said Monday.

It gave no details of what tests would be carried out.

Spokesmen said Saturday the hospital tests would help prepare the ground for President Yeltsin's planned heart operation, but they did not say how long he would stay in hospital.

Grenade attacks mar Kashmir polls

ANANTNAG, India (R) — Suspected separatist militants hurled grenades outside two polling stations in southern Kashmir Monday, injuring three paramilitary troops at the start of voting in local elections, witnesses said.

One grenade exploded near a polling station in Dalgam village as a group of journalists arrived to observe the second phase of the elections in Jammu and Kashmir state, which have been marred by anti-government protests.

Dialgam resident Ghulam Mohammad told Reuters there had been at least two other grenade attacks since Sunday evening in nearby Anantnag town, 50 kilometres south of the state's summer capital of Srinagar.

The state, torn by a six-year separatist revolt, is holding its first assembly elections since 1987. The first stage of the four-phase polls was held on Sept. 7, and voters were set to cast

ballots in the second phase Monday in parts of the Kashmir and Jammu regions of the state.

At least 20 people, most of them political activists, have been killed during campaigning. Several candidates including Farooq Abdullah, head of the state's largest party, the National Conference, have escaped attacks.

Separatist groups called a state-wide strike Monday to protest against the elections. Polling stations in Anantnag and neighbouring Pulwama town were largely deserted after they opened at 7 a.m. (0130 GMT), residents said.

But voter turnout in Kashmir's largely Hindu district of Jammu was better, officials said.

"I am voting to bring an end to the rule of bureaucracy," Shaktantala Devi, a Hindu housewife, told Reuters in Jammu. "There is nothing better than having people's own elected representatives to look after our interests."

Police in Srinagar, where polling was set for next Saturday, blocked protest marches by separatists, using tear gas and wooden batons to disperse demonstrators, witnesses said.

Before dawn, Kashmiri Muslims prayed for peace as they braced for the second phase of polls considered crucial to India's efforts to restore democratic rule in the region.

"May the Almighty God bring peace to his miserable followers and end their suffering soon," a prayer leader in Srinagar said. Loudspeakers across the city echoed similar prayers.

Police and hospital officials say more than 20,000 people have died in insurgency-related violence since the separatist rebellion began in 1990.

In a bid to quell separatism, Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's three-month-old centre-left government has promised to extend "maximum autonomy" to the state following the elections.



An Indian paramilitary trooper helps a Kashmiri woman to cast her vote at a polling booth in Pulwama Monday during the second phase of crucial polls. Indian officials said five blasts had taken place in Anantnag town, mostly aimed at disrupting the polls opposed by separatist groups in Jammu and Kashmir state (Reuters photo)

On the first day of polling on Sept. 7, voters in 26 of the state's 87 constituencies cast ballots. Officials said between 50 and 53 per cent of the eligible voters turned out that day.

"We expect the 34 elections today to be even better than the first phase," a police official told Reuters in Srinagar.

Following Tuesday's voting, two more days of polling will be held on Sept. 21 and 30. Counting will begin on Oct. 1, and the results are expected several days later.

The government has detained senior leaders of the separatist All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference since last week after they threatened to campaign against the polls, members said.

Fearing they could become the targets of violence, some political activists have been wearing masks on the campaign trail.

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Partial victory

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT Liamine Zeroual may have achieved partial victory at the end of the recent national conference which was convened to pave the way for the political future of the country. Delegates of some 38 national bodies and parties attended the meeting. These included some opposition parties and moderate Islamic groups. These groups and parties on Sunday adopted a national charter that renounced terrorism and advocated pluralistic democracy. Notably absent from the gathering that adopted the "platform for national understanding" were the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which was barred from participation, and the Socialist Forces Front (SFF) which was invited but declined to participate, something that dampened hopes for an early resolution of the crisis in the North African Arab country that so far claimed the lives of at least 50,000 people since the authorities annulled the results of the national elections that the FIS was poised to win in 1992.

The crux of the conflict in Algeria has always been the dispute between the regime and the FIS whose absence from the Sunday's conference may still prolong the crisis. In retrospect, the FIS would do itself and the country a great deal of good if it came out in support of the national consensus against terrorism even though it has been politically boycotted by the regime. No matter what the grievances of the FIS and other opposition groups in Algeria are, the resort to violence is never the right kind of policy that can legitimise their views. As long as the government accepts pluralistic democracy, there is always room for accommodation with all shades of opinion that are peacefully expressed and pursued. By resorting to armed struggle, militant factions have literally given ammunition to the establishment to suppress them by all available means.

The international community can take comfort in the holding of a national conference in Algeria that aims at national reconciliation on the basis of constructive negotiations. The non-participation of the main opposition parties in this process of national healing, however, remains a major shortcoming. The minute the FIS and the opposition parties endorse the rejection of violence and terrorism, they should be invited to play their respective natural roles so that the Algerian people can continue their efforts for national reconstruction on the foundation of pluralistic democracy.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily said that with its wise behaviour vis-à-vis the Kurds of Iraq and its announcement accepting an autonomy rule for Iraqi Kurds led by Masoud Barzani, the Baghdad government has won the respect of the world. Baghdad's change of stand towards the Kurds in general, especially granting them amnesty and expressing readiness to cooperate with them in their autonomy region, has changed the world's opinion about the Iraqi regime, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The Iraqi government can now take a step further, aimed at consolidating its position and winning the respect of all the Iraqi people, by dissolving the Revolutionary Command Council and by returning the country to civilian rule, with all that entails of laws, democracy and constitutional institutions, urged the writer. He said that the Iraqi people have been waiting for democracy which, if they win and exercise, will help thwart Washington's campaign against the Iraqi regime worldwide and reduce the danger constantly poised against the Iraqi people. The writer said that the Iraqis have worked hard for the past five years to rebuild their installations and the time has come for them to enjoy stability on the internal front. If the Baghdad government succeeded in providing safety and self-rule for the Kurds, said the writer, it can and should make way for democracy and respect of human rights for the rest of the Iraqi nation.

IN AN interview with the American television network CNN, Palestine President Yasser Arafat described his meeting with Israel's Premier Benjamin Netanyahu as positive, but added that the outcome of the meeting was nil, according to Ahmad Al Mislleh, a writer for Al Ra'i. He said that Mr. Arafat is right to reach this conclusion because Mr. Netanyahu is double-faced and a man whose actions and practices contradict with his statements about Israel's quest for peace with the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular. The world has by now realised that Mr. Netanyahu's actions on the ground, especially with regard to the delays in implementing the Oslo accords with the Palestinians and the construction of Jewish settlements on Arab lands, totally conflict with his statements to the media and those he makes to foreign leaders, said the writer. The confiscation of Arab land for the construction of Jewish settlements is being done in flagrant violation of the Oslo deal and in disregard of all U.N. resolutions and international rules, added the writer. When Mr. Arafat says that the outcome of his meeting is zero, added the writer, he is simply stating the facts on the ground, facts which Mr. Netanyahu is trying to conceal, through his double-standard dealings, from the world at large.

The View from Fourth Circle

Iraq, the New American Imperium and those troublesome bags of tea

By Rami G. Khouri

Why, I have frequently asked myself, have the United States and the United Kingdom, both in 1990-91 and today, consistently been the most vehement and violent actors in their militaristic stand against Iraq? What is it about American and British political culture that explains the consistent intensity of their self-satisfied, almost gleeful resort to a deadly combination of strangulation of economic sanctions and routine military strikes?

We have three hyperactive leaderships here — of the U.S., UK and Iraq — going at it in one of modern history's most bizarre and oddly entertaining confrontations, while a few adjacent, terrified Arab states slowly turn themselves into disguised U.S.-UK air bases and the rest of the world more or less watches, slightly embarrassed, often beguiled and fascinated.

The mass media around the world, including the Arab media, have largely done a poor job of exploring the deeper significance of this long-running drama. It was tempting but journalistically unprofessional in 1990-91 to wonder whether U.S.-UK policy was largely explained by genes and personality factors, notably the political hormones and loins-driven macho-diplomacy of historically uncompelling characters like George Bush and Margaret Thatcher — both of whom found it necessary to resort to exaggerated jingoism and flag-waving on a massive scale. But no, personality does not explain it all, given that the U.S.-UK leaderships have changed but their policies towards Iraq have not. The explanation is elsewhere.

An important clue — a telltale sign, I think — is the tone with which most U.S. and UK officials and mass media organs portray Iraq and its president. For example, the president is always called "Sad-am"; but why? What is the intention of the combination of mispronunciation and the use of the Iraqi president's first name by U.S. and UK officials? Is it mere ignorance and arrogance masquerading as false confidence? Or is it a deeper racism and imperial disdain masquerading as familiarity?

Also, the U.S. and UK focus almost exclusively on the person of Saddam Hussein: most of the remarks about him by U.S. and UK officials portray him as being stupid, irrational, genetically prone to barbarism, beyond the pale of civilised behaviour, and many other such attributes. These characterisations of the Iraqi president have now been augmented by this season's newest U.S.-UK line: that Saddam Hussein is so stupid, unfeeling, and stubborn that he is incapable of learning a lesson being taught with repeated and massive use of force against his country. This further promotes the Iraqi leader as a hopelessly violent and predatory man who cannot stop menacing his neighbours, his own people, or those handsome young American and British pilots in their high-tech airplanes so many thousands of miles away from home, in the hot desert sun, defending... well, defending what, precisely?

The latest twist to the drama, announced by U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry this week, is that Iraq should not rebuild its own air defence system because this would threaten the lives of U.S. pilots patrolling the no-fly zone in southern and central Iraq. (I would like to take this opportunity to nominate the Honourable William Perry for the 1997 television Emmy Awards in the category of best supporting male role in a black comedy mini-series: in view of the fact that angry Saudi Arabians have been killing American military personnel this year at a far faster rate than Iraqis have been killing Americans, the obvious way for Mr Perry to protect his able young pilots is to re-base them in North Carolina and Texas.) Yet, the sheer diplomatic audacity of the U.S. dictate on Iraq's air defences is itself telling of that deeper something that we must keep seeking out as a credible explanation for the striking combination of intellectual fustian and psycho-diplomatic fury that characterises the U.S. and UK positions. I ask again: Why do only these two countries, and Iraq, remain in their state of combat so chronic that it is not only predictable and routine, but also almost comic?

I would like to suggest a possible explanation: the United States and the United Kingdom are the most enthusiastic united bombers (the uni-bombers!) in Iraq because they are the main actors in a vast, intricate and chilling histori-

cal drama — the passing of the imperial torch and responsibility in the Middle East and, by extension, in the rest of the world. The political and military frenzy of the U.S. and UK vis-à-vis Iraq (and also Iran, in most cases) is not adequately explained by the fact that the U.S.-UK are deeply or seriously interested in any of the fatuous excuses they have given the world (protecting the Kurds, safeguarding neighbours, implementing U.N. resolutions, etc.). It is explained by the fact that they primarily want to maintain the Middle East and its resources as they have been for several centuries — within the broad imperial and strategic sphere of the leading global power, which is the U.S. today, but which was the UK in the 19th century when this particular imperial story began.

Two things are going on simultaneously: a) the nature of Western imperial interests and strategic control mechanisms is changing, from the UK's 19th century model of physical occupation and direct political management to the U.S.'s 20th century model of indirect commercial and cultural domination — achieved through the use of surrogates in the form of wealthy local elites, brittle political regimes and a Barnum-and-Bailey-like assortment of odd-ball Oriental flunkies, groupies, cheer-leaders, errand boys, voyeurs and hangers-on.

"Why the hysterical intellectual and military response of the U.S. and the UK to Iraq? Because this response is designed to achieve one thing and one thing only: to punish, defeat, humiliate and dehumanise the people, government, president and very concept of the sovereign Iraqi nation so severely and so frequently for their imperial revolt that no other Third World country for the coming hundred years would ever consider the same sort of impertinence and disobedience that Iraq has displayed and continues to display."

The grave crime of which Iraq and Saddam Hussein are uniquely guilty is imperial insubordination. Every other terrible thing they are accused of doing has been or is still being done by many other countries in the world, with no significant response from the U.S. and UK. Why the hysterical intellectual and military response of the U.S. and the UK to Iraq? Because this response is designed to achieve one thing and one thing only: to punish, defeat, humiliate and dehumanise the people, government, president and very concept of the sovereign Iraqi nation so severely and so frequently for their imperial revolt that no other Third World country for the coming hundred years would ever consider the same sort of impertinence and disobedience that Iraq has displayed and continues to display. Iraq, the cradle of civilisation, is being turned into a wasteland where some grandmothers and children face the choice of dying or working as prostitutes — because Iraq foolishly defied the imperial rules. It challenged and dared to change an old order that was manufactured by the British and is being perpetuated by the Americans. This conflict is not about creating a New World Order of the rule of law; it is about reinventing and renaming the old imperial order of hegemony, exploitation and tourism to exotic lands.

The common thread that runs through U.S.-UK behaviour and Iraqi government's behaviour has been clarified in 1996: the U.S. and UK are primarily demanding com-

pliance with the imperial rules and tradition, while Iraq is continuing primarily to show defiance. Viewed in these terms, the behaviour of Iraq is very clear, logical and consistent, and so is that of the U.S. and UK. Thus, it is neither sheer imbecility nor a morally obtuse cruelty that drives the U.S. and UK to act as they do; it is the indomitable and irresistible nature of the imperial imperative, i.e., being imperially driven, they just can't help it. And conversely, Iraq's behaviour vis-à-vis its neighbourhood and the military presence of the Western powers is neither generic megalomania nor an outlandish dash for the loot, as the U.S.-UK imperial world view would have us believe; Iraq's behaviour is anti-imperial rebellion and insurrection, pure and simple. Thus, the Iraqi government's greatest fear is not to be attacked, but to be ignored by the U.S.-UK uni-bombers. When Iraq needles and provokes the U.S.-UK rules, it is not necessarily being stupid; it is being rebellious in a well established anti-imperial tradition that is both programmed into the genes of our species and deeply burned into the chronicles of human civilisation (listen up guys, this is kinda like doing something foolishly dangerous like throwing bags of tea into Boston harbour in the 18th century).

You might say this is crazy. I might agree. Saddam Hussein is no Arab hero for me; he is a violent man who runs a police state and attacks his neighbours, in the finest hegemonic Middle Eastern tradition. I want no part of his system or his ways. But he, the person, is not the issue, as the uni-bombers want us to believe. The issue is imperial rule and the tutelage it demands from Middle Eastern states. Six years after Iraq invaded Kuwait and the U.S.-UK military reaction got under way, the rules of the game are now more clear. Both sides are violent, predatory and wrong, but neither is crazy, inconsistent or irrational. Both are behaving according to fixed human rules and psychological criteria: the desire to dominate and rule, and the counter-desire to be free and sovereign. The imperial temptation vs. the struggle for self-assertion and dignity. The timeless and universal urge to dump tea into the sea, to thumb your nose at the foreign military hegemony from across the sea.

The behaviour of the three hegemonies represents a struggle to define the new imperialism in the Middle East. That is why this week we witness so many people doing so many weird things around here, where all sorts of locals and foreigners have such a hard time learning the lessons that history tries repeatedly to teach them: the U.S. and UK, once again, are quietly abandoning the Kurds to their harsh fate; senior U.S. officials are flying around the Middle East making statements that testify as much to the political jiggling of the neurological connections caused by chronic jet-lag as they do to the historical pitfalls of engaging in imperial amateurism; UK officials within earshot of any working television camera anywhere in the world are cheering on the Americans as hard as they can, dreaming of an honourable mention in next year's Emmy Awards in the category of best supporting-supporting role: most Gulf, Arab and other Middle Eastern governments are finding themselves getting tied up in increasingly incoherent and uncomfortable diplomatic knots as they try simultaneously to reflect the sentiments of their own people and appease the New American Imperium; almost every country in the world other than the U.S. and UK is silently snickering and laughing, and trying to figure out how to cash in on the commercial consequences of the confrontation in Iraq; and, most people, in most homes, in most Arab countries, are watching it all with a combination of anger and amusement, quietly cheering for Iraq yet knowing that Iraq and its president are destined to suffer and probably get clobbered again soon, nervously aware that the violent and retributive rules of the New American Imperium, like the old British one, apply to them, too.

The atmosphere in the Middle East is both violent and hopeful, as it always is in situations around the world when the deceptive surface calm of imperial tutelage and legacy is shattered by violent troublemakers throwing tea all over the place.

U.S. seen struggling to secure Saudi backing

By Youssef Kassem
Renter

DUBAI — Saudi Arabia's reluctance to get involved in U.S. military action against Iraq reflects differences between the two allies, which go beyond Baghdad to include their policies towards Israel, analysts said Monday.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry's two brief weekend shuttles to the kingdom were part of a lightning Gulf mission in search of support for a possible military showdown with Iraq.

Mr. Perry, who flew to NATO ally Turkey Monday, made brief stops in Kuwait and Bahrain.

But it was in Saudi Arabia, launch pad for the U.S.-led 1991 Gulf war against Iraq, where Arab disquiet over the Clinton administration's arms build-up against Baghdad found the most significant expression.

Remarks by Saudi Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan about U.S. forces underscored deep sensitivities in Saudi Arabia, rattled by two bombs that killed 24 Americans in the last year and facing violent Muslim militant opposition to the American presence.

"First of all there are no American forces there (in

Al-Kharg)... There are planes tied to Security Council resolutions present in this area and he (Perry) visited the pilots and greeted them," the prince told reporters Sunday.

The 5,000 U.S. Military personnel in the kingdom are being shifted to Al-Kharg air base in the desert, deemed safer than Dhahran where a truck bomb killed 19 American airmen in June.

Analysts said the Clinton administration could be concerned about Riyadh's thinking after Washington launched 44 cruise missiles against southern Iraq earlier this month.

Prince Sultan broke more than a week's Saudi silence on the attacks to say Wednesday that, if asked, Saudi Arabia would have refused to allow U.S. planes already deployed on Saudi bases to be used for raids on Iraq.

"Saudi Arabia's abstention from housing U.S. raids against Iraq caused concern in Washington," said a Gulf-based analyst who declined to be named.

"Riyadh is as keen as its other Gulf and western allies to see an end to threats to the region, but the Saudis see Saddam as one issue and Iraq as another," he added.

Saudi involvement in U.S. military action would add a veneer of Arab approval but the

United States has shown that it has sufficient firepower in the region to act alone if necessary.

Sources familiar with Saudi thinking ruled out a major rift between the two allies, but said the Saudis were not now so wholehearted about an unrivalled U.S. role in the Gulf.

They said the Iraq-U.S. showdown was the latest of what they saw as Saudi differences with the United States on some issues.

Analysts said Riyadh's displeasure with Washington began when, at two Middle East summits in Casablanca in 1994 and Amman in 1995, the United States threw its weight behind a planned \$10 billion Middle East development bank with Israeli participation.

Saudi Arabia rejected the proposal, saying Arab financial institutions were capable of financing development projects.

"They (the Saudis), along with some Arab states would not concede to American pressures to integrate Israel in the region's economy before a comprehensive Middle East peace is achieved," said one Arab diplomat.

"It was like putting the cart before the horse," he added.

Sources said the Saudis also regarded the U.S. role in the Middle East peace process as unbalanced following the election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on a platform which rejected an earlier agreed land-for-peace for-

mula.

Riyadh has said it would consider direct links with the Jewish state only after Israel reached a final peace accord with Syria and Lebanon and the status of Jerusalem was resolved.

Diplomats said Riyadh was also annoyed by U.S. questioning of the effectiveness of cooperation between U.S. and Saudi officials investigating the two bomb attacks.

The Saudi interior ministry said in May the arrest of four Saudis, beheaded on May 31 for the first blast in Riyadh last November, was a result of efforts by Saudi investigators without outside help.

Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar underlined the Saudi mood in June when he said: "Our security people are first rate."

Analysts said Saudi officials also felt the United States was not fully considering the consequences of a divided Iraq.

"Fragmentation of Iraq could mean inviting a bigger Turkish and Iranian role in the region. To the Saudis, this could pose a bigger threat to the region than Saddam," a columnist in the United Arab Emirates told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

"Attacking Iraq from Saudi bases could fuel more resentment to the presence of U.S. troops on its soil, a pretext used by militants and dissidents to criticise the Saudi royal family."

LETTERS

Make up time

To the Editor:

IT IS well-known that healthy competition brings out the best in businesses and provides quality products, improved customer service, to their customers. Such salutary competition was well-evident this summer during the price war that flared up between the different international airlines, the national carrier and travel agents.

Customers noticed and felt the impact of the price war in their pockets, where it matters the most. People talked about the drop in airline ticket prices during social events. Many people were able to travel to destinations they had been dreaming of. Businesspeople made most of their necessary trips during this period to take advantage of the low prices.

So the people working in the travel and tourism industry benefited the most from this new experience, as did their customers. One question, though, needs to be asked here: Why wasn't this competition evident before? Why now? What caused it to suddenly happen? Speculations abound, but so far no answer has been offered by the industry itself.

Another evident truth that should be addressed here is that all these years we, the customers, paid premium prices for frugal services. I think the industry should make up for it by making donations to the local communities for building public parks (perhaps aptly named conveniently "tourist parks"). This would cover part of our losses over the past years when competition was absent.

Samer Qubain,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

The shape of things to come

By Cornelio Sommaruga

THE 1990s have been exceptionally turbulent for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) movement, more so than any period since World War II. The landscape within which humanitarian activities must take place has evolved, and continues to evolve, dramatically.

It is now accepted wisdom that the end of the cold war has been the catalyst for many of these changes. But five years ago, who foresaw the full implications? Superpower rivalry provided a form of discipline to the many conflicts around the world. Rare was the political leader who, directly or indirectly, did not depend upon one of them for support. But since the collapse of the Berlin Wall, many conflicts have taken place in a kind of geostrategic vacuum.

Some conflicts have been marked by the collapse of government and a total breakdown of authority, law and order. Others have been more characterised by the fragmentation or devolution of authority to provincial, local and even neighbourhood levels, authority whose cohesion owes more to ethnic, religious or informal economic ties than to political considerations. In others, the state has remained more or less intact, but those responsible for ensuring the security of the population and of specific groups like detainees are lacking in training, resources and the will to carry out their duties.

Conflicts which appear to be devoid of ideology have often left the international community at a loss as to how to react. Warring parties may be motivated by territorial ambition, access to precious resources like

oil or gems, the desire to "cleanse" entire areas of rival ethnic groups, or seemingly the basest criminal instincts. In these circumstances, where combatants either know nothing or do not care about basic humanitarian norms, not even those which for centuries may have underpinned tolerance in their own societies, the role of humanitarian actors has been enormously complicated.

These developments on the ground have been further aggravated by major changes on the humanitarian scene. The number of organisations — multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental — getting directly involved in crises has proliferated. Intense and uneven media interest has had a major impact upon international responses. There has been confusion between the roles of political, military and humanitarian actors and, most counterproductive of all, attempts are being made to solve essentially political problems with humanitarian means. The lessons are slowly being drawn from situations like Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, but this has been too late for many of the victims, in whose name, after all, relief operations have been mounted in the first place.

Indeed, accountability to donors might be said to have outpaced accountability to beneficiaries throughout the 1990s.

The ICRC has tried to rise to the many challenges these developments have posed. The 1990s have marked the "coming out" of the organisation in many senses: not just in obtaining observer status at the United Nations General Assembly, but in its willingness to cooperate with other

humanitarian players in the interest of the victims, with United Nations agencies, multilateral donors and non-governmental groups; to collaborate more closely with human rights and other specialist lawyers as the relevance to them of international humanitarian law grows; to be more public about its concerns whether regarding the security of civilian populations or, for example, on the health effects of weapons such as anti-personnel landmines; and its willingness to broaden its activities to help enable populations and victims not just to meet their immediate relief needs but also to prepare themselves to recover their productive lives.

Above all, the ICRC has intensified its collaboration with other components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, both with national societies and

the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, recognising the unique capacity of the movement to deliver services to the victims. This has been evident, for example, in tracing, dissemination and public information activities.

The ICRC has experienced a period of extraordinary growth in the last five years and has reached parts of the world it has never reached before. Indeed, delegates now find themselves caught in the very midst of the fighting, and not as in the past on the sidelines, with all the implications this has for their security and the qualities they require to carry out their tasks.

The demands placed upon the organisation and its growth have strained its capacity to find well-qualified delegates able to respond to complex crises

at very short notice and has involved the organisation in redoubling its efforts to secure the necessary funding. But it has managed to remain faithful to the mandate entrusted to it by governments in the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC remains braced for the future, though not without anxiety. Global socio-economic currents threaten to put ever greater strains on populations around the world. The battle for resources will continue to be compounded by deep-flowing political and ethnic tensions. Governments in many countries will find it increasingly difficult to respond to the aspirations and basic needs of their own people, and there will always be the unscrupulous willing to take advantage of wider disaffection for personal gain. Debt burdens, unregulated transfer of weapons

and enormous pressure on natural resources will take a greater toll on the most vulnerable and discriminated against in many societies.

The ICRC will continue to collaborate closely with the rest of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to ensure that the possibilities and limits of humanitarian action are understood, that the provisions of international humanitarian law are respected and implemented that the needs of the victims of conflict and violence are met as quickly, impartially and comprehensively as possible.

The writer is president of the ICRC. This article is an extract from "Challenges of the nineties: ICRC special report on activities between 1990-1995".

Status of Iraqi Kurdistan subject of dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

Tens of thousands of Kurds have fled the fighting in the region during the past two weeks and a number of PUK leaders, including chief Jalal Talabani, have reportedly sought refuge in Iran.

Iraqi Kurdistan had been autonomous from Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war when the United States, France and Britain set up a Kurdish "safe haven" there. Parliament Vice-President Nijad Omar Agha said that the legislature still symbolised the ties between the two rival Kurdish parties.

Before the session, KDP leader Massud Barzani discussed with the deputies the possibility of sending a delegation to Iran to offer to let the PUK leaders return here but to conduct political activities only.

Mr. Barzani said Saturday that an "Iraqi Kurdish army" will be set up and that all partisan militias will be abolished, even his own. He reiterated his support for a Kurdish unit within an Iraqi federation, proclaimed in 1992 by the Kurdish parliament.

KDP spokesman Sami

Abdul Rahman told AFP that his party sent "a positive letter to Washington and that he was expecting a response to it." He did not give further details on the message.

Separately, in an interview with the Arabic-language paper Al Hayat, Mr. Barzani said: "We believe that Kurdistan is part of Iraq and we realise the importance, indeed the need to preserve the territorial sovereignty of Iraq."

"The most natural way to resolve the Kurdish question is still through negotiations ... with the central government," he said, "on the basis of democracy in Iraq, pluralism, free elections and federalism."

Mr. Barzani indicated, however, that a return of Iraqi government control over the Kurdish-dominated areas of northern Iraq was not likely in the short-term.

Mr. Barzani also said that the KDP remained committed to decisions taken by the Kurdish parliament in favour of a federal solution to the status of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The KDP leader also said he was forced to forge an

alliance with Baghdad because of Tehran's support for the PUK.

"We reached agreement with the Iraqi government on two points: Respect for Iraqi sovereignty and our right to exist," he said.

Iran called on the United Nations on Monday to "rapidly" take on financial responsibility for thousands of Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

"We admitted these refugees at the U.N.'s request and now the organisation should rapidly forward aid," said Ahmad Hosseini, the director general of the foreign ministry's refugee office.

He said around 60,000 Kurdish refugees were sheltered in five camps, adding that Tehran had conveyed its concern over their expenses to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"The resources of our three provinces where the refugee camps are situated are being worn out and if the aid does not arrive on time we will have a problem," the official news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Hosseini as saying.

Jordan pledges continued support

(Continued from page 1)

of the Arab World representatives of the Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations and told his guests that serious humanitarian work should involve the cooperation of the region's countries.

He said humanitarian work should be separated from politics and the concerned parties should promote their endeavours by establishing a humanitarian charter that spells out principles for such endeavours.

Prince Hassan recalled the heavy burden which Jordan shouldered in dealing with hundreds of thousands of displaced expatriates and refugees during the Gulf crisis and expressed concern over the prospect of Jordan dealing with similar crisis in the light of the recent military escalation in the region.

He said: "The region lacks special institutions that can defuse conflicts, control the use of arms and assure regional security, institutions which are necessary to help our region avert the catastrophes of conflicts and wars."

"Parallel to establishing such institutions, the region requires endeavours to create a mechanism and a means to deal with the humanitarian

aspects, like establishing medical centres, hospitals and centres for providing relief services and medical aid," the Regent added.

He recalled the consequences of the 1991 Gulf conflict when Jordan had to deal with one-and-a-half million of displaced persons who converged on the Kingdom from the Gulf and his meetings with U.N. officials to provide aid for them.

"The management of crises is not an easy task," he said, adding that qualified personnel and well-equipped centres are required during crises to offer the minimum level of relief to the distressed people.

"We are living through a new phase of worry and uncertainty represented in the reported American preparations to receive Kurdish refugees following the latest escalations in Iraq on the one hand and the reported threats which forebode disasters on the other," he stressed.

Sheikh Abdul Ghani Ashi, secretary-general of the Federation of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Organisations, presented Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan with the Abu Bakr Al Siddiq Medal in recognition of her efforts and services in humanitarian fields.

Prominent candidates take early lead

(Continued from page 1)

count from 20 municipalities, OSCE officials said.

The three nationalist candidates had been widely predicted before the elections as likely to take the lion's share of the votes in the race for the presidency.

The presidency will last for two years and the candidate who gathers the highest tally will be elected the president of the country.

The first results were based on a count of 103,000 votes in nine municipalities — two in the Republika Srpska and seven in the Muslim-Croat federation.

They appeared to indicate that fears that Mr. Izetbegovic would be badly hit by a challenge from his main rival Haris Silajdzic had not been borne out at the ballot box, western diplomatic observers said.

Sarajevans had feared that if Mr. Silajdzic took too many votes from Mr. Izetbegovic, the presidency might pass to Mr. Krajisnik, greatly feared by the Bosnian Muslims.

International organisers cautioned that the samples, particularly for the Muslim contest,

were too small to indicate reliably whether Izetbegovic would win a big enough majority to ensure he would head the presidency.

The OSCE, which is organising the poll, said it had received 75 protests over the conduct of Bosnia's first post-war elections and a respected monitoring group said the balloting was not remotely free and fair.

Some of the complaints involved groups, apparently Muslim refugees based under NATO security into separatist Serb territory to vote, who said they were disenfranchised because their names were missing from polling station lists.

One was a challenge by the SDA, which denounced voting results on Serb territory as fraudulent, before they were even announced, and vowed not to recognise them.

Authorities must rule on complaints within 72 hours of receipt. Elections results cannot be certified before all protests are resolved.

An independent monitoring agency said many refugees in Bosnia were effectively disenfranchised because of techni-

cal errors in voter registration. Some 200,000 refugees abroad may have been unable to vote for the same reason, the Soros foundation-backed International Crisis Group (ICG) said in a statement.

A U.N. spokesman said only 14,700 of an eligible 150,000 displaced people dared to cross Bosnia's internal boundary lines to vote on terrain from which they were evicted by nationalist militias during the 1992-95 war.

International officials at an election post-mortem briefing blamed the poor turnout for buses hired to take refugees across ethnic lines on several factors, including a postponement of municipal voting and a general climate of fear.

ICG monitors said most refugees who wanted to vote in the Serb entity did not because polling stations were deliberately placed well away from their old neighbourhoods and because of confusion over security precautions.

"Against this background of adverse conditions, electoral engineering and disenfranchisement, these elections cannot be described as free, fair or democratic," the ICG said.

U.S. fails to seal cracks in anti-Iraq coalition

(Continued from page 1)

The Pentagon had announced on Friday that additional troops would be sent to Kuwait, but this was thrown into question over the weekend as Kuwait City balked at the deployment. It gave final approval on Monday.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry declined to say how many U.S. troops would be sent to Kuwait where eight F-117 Stealth bombers and 18 F-16 fighters were deployed last week.

"We can confirm that the government of Kuwait has agreed to the stationing of our troops there," Mr. McCurry said.

The threat to deploy more troops came despite Baghdad's pledge Friday to stop attacking allied warplanes patrolling an expanded flight-exclusion zone in southern Iraq established to protect the mainly Shiite population there.

The zone was enlarged after Iraqi troops entered Kurdish-held northern Iraq on Aug. 31, helping one Kurdish faction take control of nearly the entire region and spawning a refugee crisis.

Kuwait, which a U.S.-led military coalition freed from Iraqi occupation in the 1991 Gulf war, was the only Arab country to openly support U.S. cruise missile strikes on southern Iraq on Sept. 3 and 4.

The strikes were in retaliation for an Iraqi military incursion into the Kurdish "safe haven" of northern Iraq.

Mr. Perry said Sunday that he had alerted troops based at Fort Hood, Texas, to be prepared to join 1,200 U.S. troops already staging exercises in the Kuwaiti desert. Some 3,000 to 5,000 troops are to be deployed.

A Western diplomat said Kuwait's initial hesitation in accepting the troops arose "because Arab countries are fully against it, fully against intervention" in Iraq.

They are not alone. In Ankara on Monday, Foreign Minister

Tansu Ciller ruled out letting the United States use the Incirlik air base in southern Turkey.

"There has been no U.S. request for the use (of Incirlik) ... Indeed we cannot respond positively to such a request regarding Incirlik," Mrs. Ciller told reporters after a meeting with Mr. Perry.

"This would not be a correct approach for our country's current interests."

Allied aircraft based in Incirlik launched intensive strikes against Iraqi targets during the Gulf war.

After being refused support from Turkey for airstrikes on Iraq, Mr. Perry headed Monday for a hastily arranged meeting with counterparts Michael Portillo of Britain and Charles Milon of France.

The British Defence Ministry said the three were to meet at an air base west of London late Monday.

Britain has given its full support for U.S. cruise missile strikes on Iraqi military installations but France has distanced itself from the strikes.

In addition to Kuwait, Mr. Perry's regional tour also included a stop in Bahrain, the headquarters of the U.S. Fifth Fleet. It has accepted the deployment at its air bases of 23 U.S. F-16 fighters.

The U.S. defence chief met in with King Fahd in Saudi Arabia, which has forbade the United States from using U.S. warplanes based in the kingdom to carry out strikes on Iraq.

Iraqi newspapers on Monday welcomed Mr. Perry's apparent difficulties.

The desperate efforts of the United States to revive the (Gulf war) coalition to carry out its aggressive plans is doomed to failure," said Al Thawra. "The American administration is incapable of understanding the changes which have taken place in the attitude of the whole world."

Another official Iraqi daily said Iraq had foiled a U.S. plot

to divide the country and set up puppet regimes in the Kurdish north and mainly Shiite Muslim south.

The plot was to be set in motion by Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) defeated in the north by a rival Kurdish faction which turned to Baghdad, Al Jumhuriya newspaper charged.

"The plan was for the PUK to seize control of northern Iraq with the support of Iran, for anarchy to spread in the south, and for puppet governments to be formed in both regions," it said.

"The puppet government to be set up in the south would then call for protection from the United States and its allies," the paper said.

"This plot, which was to be carried out in September, aimed to divide Iraq into three entities which would then wage war, allowing the United States to take full control of Iraq."

Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan said that he did not think the United States planned another military strike against Iraq and welcomed recent statements from Baghdad aimed at defusing tensions.

On Monday Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoun, told the Cable News Network that Baghdad would not fire on allied planes if Washington halted its military buildup in the region.

"If they don't shoot at us, we're not going to shoot at them," Mr. Hamdoun said, adding "we are in a waiting status."

U.S. officials have said that "Washington's allies have basically the same perception of the threat posed by Baghdad, and merely disagree with the U.S. approach."

They have also said that the U.S. military is up to the task of facing Iraq alone if necessary.

But the decision to send the top U.S. defence official abroad confirms that they take seriously the coalition's apparent fracture.

Mubarak urges Netanyahu

(Continued from page 1)

"It seems as if Israel wants to go back on these agreements, but you (Israelis) will lose the Arab World's confidence," he said. "The (Israeli) theory of security before peace is wrong because while the territories are occupied and while peace has not yet been established, all attempts to ensure security are in vain," the Egyptian leader said.

"Israel must help unblock the peace process because I fear a reversal which will reverberate on us all and which will hurt all peoples. There is a lot of scepticism with regard to Israel (in the Arab World), that's why I say 'build the Palestinians' confidence so that we can talk with the other countries. Take a first step," Mr. Mubarak urged.

Regarding the third Middle East and North Africa

(MENA) economic conference, Mr. Mubarak said, "If the conference is cancelled, it will harm Israel because it's this country that will be responsible."

Mr. Mubarak had threatened to cancel the conference, scheduled for Nov. 12-14 in Cairo, unless Israel moved the peace process ahead with the Palestinians. "Mr. Netanyahu said that the cancellation of the economic conference will hurt Egypt, but in fact all the countries will blame Israel," he added.

Mr. Mubarak Monday expressed his concern with holding the conference as scheduled but stressed that he would not cave in to "pressure."

"Egypt is concerned with holding the economic conference on the expected dates" but "I'm asking the United States and Israel to take responsibility (by advancing the peace process) to ensure

the conference's success," Mr. Mubarak was quoted by his information minister, Safwat Al Sherif, as saying.

Mr. Mubarak urged Israel and the United States to "assume full responsibility ... to guarantee the success of this conference" by taking steps toward ending the stalemate in the Arab-Israeli peace process, said Mr. Sherif.

EON Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu criticised Egypt, saying: "Holding the economic conference is in the interest of Egypt."

"Whoever tries to cancel it is looking to cut off his own nose," Mr. Netanyahu said in an interview with Israeli Radio.

The editor-in-chief of Al Gomhuriya, Samir Ragab, struck back saying: "May your (Netanyahu's) nose, ears and even your tongue be cut off" and accused the Israeli prime minister of making "impolite" remarks.

Number of corruption, bribery cases rises to 101

(Continued from page 1)

adulterated flour as well as animal feed, the list showed.

Other cases involved duplicate products with brand name, including watches.

Dr. Muasher confirmed that two employees of the Greater Amman Municipal Council were charged with altering municipal documents related to a 1.5 dunum of land in the posh Abdoun area. The alterations showed that the plot was in class A residential neighbourhood whereas the municipality had classified it as part of a 23-dunum area designated for a park in 1975.

The amount of bribery involved was JD 270,000.

Also uncovered were cases of stealing of equipment and material from the stores of the Water Authority of Jordan and at least one employee has been charged. A contractor with the Water Authority of Jordan also faces similar charges in a different case.

Four employees of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) face charges of bribery after they were found to have collected money from subscribers for quick connection of telephone lines. The amount known to have been received by the four is JD 12,000 since 1993.

One or more inspectors from

the Ministry of Labour were found to have ignored violations of ministry regulations governing foreign workers in the country and ignored their illegal status without work permit in return for bribes.

Also referred to court are cases involving forgery of registration books of vehicles and illegal alteration of chassis serial numbers in vehicles.

The Kabarti government has made the fight against corruption one of its priorities.

Dr. Muasher's disclosures on Monday came in line with a government promise to prove its seriousness in its endeavours to fight corruption and bribery.

Foreign exchange reserves will be up

(Continued from page 1)

a \$1 billion pledge made at the Paris meeting.

Some of the pledges have already been fulfilled, she said, noting that the European Union (EU) had signed a \$125 million assistance to the Kingdom's balance of payments and the U.S. Exim Bank had also granted \$200 million in credit facilities for Jordanian imports of American goods and services.

Other expected funds include a \$100 million soft loan from an Arab fund and another tranche of European assistance of \$120 million, she added.

Dr. Khalaf said Jordan had achieved major success in bringing down its foreign debts in terms of its relation to the Kingdom's gross domestic product (GDP).

She noted that Jordan's foreign debts stood at more than 200 per cent of its GDP only a few years ago, but now it stands at around 100 per cent.

"This means that we have not simply brought down the debts but increased our GDP," Dr.

Khalaf pointed out.

The government will soon present a report to the World Bank, outlining all the economic reforms it had undertaken and proposes to undertake, she said.

The World Bank is guiding the Kingdom's economic restructuring and the report is expected to bring in additional World Bank assistance to the reform programme.

However, the restructuring and reform programme is more Jordanian than World Bank or International Monetary Fund, the minister said.

"Jordan stands out in the Middle East region after having achieved so much through economic restructuring and the government is committed to the programme because it has been a tremendous success for the country and its economy," Dr. Khalaf said.

"It is a national programme that aims at positively addressing all aspects of the national economy" and as such it cannot simply be described as an external programme imposed on Jordan, she added.

Hebronites demand reopening of market

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli officials said that a group of settlers who had occupied four of the closed-down shops last week had been removed and police would prevent any future seizures, Mr. Natshe said.

Under agreements for the expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, the Israeli government, then led by the dovish Labour Party, pledged to allow the reopening of the market.

The accords, concluded

in September 1995, also called for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from 80 per cent of the town, home to 120,000 Palestinians.

However, the redeployment plan was put on hold by the new government, led by Israel's hardline Likud Party leader, Benjamin Netanyahu.

His government is seeking to renegotiate the agreements with the Palestinians to allow the Israeli military to maintain a presence in areas it was supposed to vacate.

IMF steps up surveillance role but notes weakening in reserves

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) bolstered its surveillance of world economies in its last financial year but saw its reserves contract in the face of major commitments, notably to Russia.

The IMF, in a report on its financial year ending April 30, disclosed that it had extended financial commitments to member states worth \$26 billion.

The figure was well above the \$22 billion committed in 1994-1995, the year of the Mexican peso crisis, and the \$20 billion made available during a debt emergency in 1982-1983.

The IMF in the past financial period accorded a \$10 billion credit to Russia, second only to the \$17.5 billion approved for Mexico in 1995.

In addition, the fund insti-

tuted a new emergency financing mechanism to enable it to respond rapidly to members confronting an external financial crisis.

At the same time, aid programmes were approved for countries just emerging from conflicts, with Bosnia the first beneficiary.

But the report noted that as a result of such financing, its liquidity ratio — between the IMF's uncommitted usable resources and its liabilities — fell to 89.8 per cent in late April from 126.1 per cent at the end of its financial period a year earlier.

The fund's liquid resources dropped to \$81.8 billion as of April 30, 1996 from \$89.3 billion in 1995.

But the IMF said it had also taken steps to add to its resources. An extension of its borrowing capacity should be finally approved at its annual meeting later

this month, according to IMF deputy managing director Stanley Fisher.

An agreement in principle on the expansion has been reached with a dozen new countries, taking the total amount available to the IMF in time of crisis to around \$50 billion.

A key question confronting the IMF remains a proposal to sell a small part of the fund's gold reserves to finance its participation in an initiative — to be carried out with the World Bank — to ease the debt burden of the world's poorest countries.

Also unresolved are the allocation of special drawing rights (SDR) to new IMF members who have never received them and increases in quota contributions.

At present, the necessary majority backing for expanding SDR allocations

has not been achieved, according to Mr. Fisher, who added that consensus on a quota hike was possible next year.

On the question of surveillance, the IMF has increased to one a month the frequency of informal executive board meetings to review major developments in selected countries.

As of Sept. 18 the IMF will launch an information service on the Internet, providing economic and financial statistics that member states agree to release regularly to the public and to the markets.

Thirty-three countries have agreed to participate in the service.

With 181 member states, the IMF operates on a budget of \$490 million and employs 2,200 people.

Asian reliance on Arab oil seen as inevitable

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Japan and other Asian countries are set to become almost completely reliant on Arab oil as they press ahead with refinery expansion to meet domestic demand, an official report has said.

South Asian countries and Pacific nations currently import from the Middle East nearly 76 per cent of their total crude supplies of around 9.3 million barrels per day (bpd), the Kuwait-based Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said in its quarterly bulletin.

The level is projected to grow to 79 per cent in 1997 and 84 per cent in 2000 before it climbs above 90 per cent in the following years.

"By the year 2005, around 92 per cent of that region's crude imports will come from the Middle East unless there are other supply sources," it said.

"Since most of those countries have plans to expand their refining capacity to meet local consump-

tion, their reliance on Arab oil is inevitable," the OPEC bulletin added.

The report covered Japan, China, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Indonesia, India and Australia.

High consumption caused by rapid economic growth rates is steadily widening the gap between production and demand in those countries while some of them have become pure importers, the 10-nation organisation said.

It cited China as one of the biggest oil producers and consumers of oil in the world. But it said consumption was growing much faster than production, forcing the most populous nation on earth to look for foreign supply sources.

China has already struck small deals to import oil from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf oil producers. But it is expected to largely boost those imports in the near future to cover the broadening production-consumption

gap.

Japan already gets nearly 70 per cent of its crude needs from the Gulf and the level is forecast to surge to nearly 80 per cent by the year 2000.

"Oil consumption in Asia and the Pacific will continue to grow steadily over the next decade and beyond. Regional supplies will then far lag behind local production and the gap will be filled mainly by additional supplies from the Middle East," said OPEC, which controls 60 per cent of the world's oil.

"Despite substantial changes in that region over the past two decades, it still heavily depends on the Gulf for its oil needs," it added.

"Such dependence will reach unprecedented levels in the next few years for a simple reason, which is that China, Indonesia and Malaysia will join the group of countries that will import large quantities of oil."

The report said Gulf states had the potential to meet the needs of the region given

their massive crude reserves and plans to upgrade capacity.

Official figures showed Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) hold around 60 per cent of the global proven crude reserves and they account for nearly a quarter of the world's oil supplies.

Their production capacity is estimated at around 20 million bpd, which will exceed 25 million bpd in 2000 due to multi-billion-dollar expansion projects.

This is in contrast with most other producers, whose capacity will gradually decline in the near future because of their small reserves.

"The Asian-Pacific region will face a difficult situation concerning oil production and supply. This will give rise to competition to market oil there and such developments will have important effects on potential crude traders and investors in the region," OPEC said.

EPA: Japan is tired, but time to wake up to reality

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan is tired. The economic systems, structures and policies that drove the nation to the top of the world over the past 30 years have run their course and it is time to change.

So says the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) in its white paper, the government's annual prognosis on the economy since 1947.

"The economic system that has until now regulated the market economy in Japan now shows signs of exhaustion," the EPA said in its economic survey of Japan.

It concluded the collapse of the speculative "bubble economy" of the late 1980s, the yen's rise against the dollar, intensifying competition and an ageing population means Japan has to rethink its way of doing things.

"Fifty years after World War II, the Japanese economy finds itself in a period of historical structural adjustment," the EPA said, adding that uncertainties about the future direction of the economy contributed to the "strikingly exceptional low growth" of the past four years.

The report provides a clear basis for the arguments of EPA director general Shusei Tanaka, appointed early this year by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to head economic planning for Japan.

Mr. Tanaka believes in radical deregulation if the maturing economy is to boost its capacity for growth.

He has backers in Mr. Hashimoto and Finance Minister Wataru Kubo, and the EPA paper carries the weight of being the government's view of the economy.

The question is whether the message can be sold to the electorate, industry and the bureaucrats.

But as Akira Sadahiro, a research department director at the EPA, said in briefing foreign press: "It is our job to explain the situation, not to make decisions about what is to be done."

Nonetheless, the white paper spells out the need for change.

"The low growth of the first half of the 1990s was caused by the Japanese economic structure and system's inability to cope with several successive internal

and external shocks," it said.

The paper said that despite government attempts to stimulate the economy, such as the injection of public funds — in the order of 60 trillion yen (\$555 billion) — and a 5.5 trillion yen tax cut, Japan was hit by three unexpected shocks. Those were the Kobe earthquake, the sharp rise of the yen, and the gas attack on the Tokyo subway.

Economic recovery has yet to be realised.

The EPA concluded: "True recovery of the economy should be achieved through strengthening the base of the Japanese economy by changing economic structures and systems."

The agency said Japan's three-level industrial structure — based on profitable, and unprofitable, manufacturing sectors, and the services sector, needed to be reviewed.

Boosting the unprofitable sector, rather than coddling it, might help further redress the current account surplus and reduce the difference between prices in Japan and overseas, as well as create a structure more

suitable for the future.

"The keys are improvement in the competitive environment by deregulation, increase of imports in light of Japan's comparative advantage, and expansion into the technological frontier," it said.

Importantly, the agency decided: "Thinking on economic policy must change."

"Industrial structural change and revision of economic policies will lead to sustainable growth with improvements in productivity and in the quality of life — the ultimate goal of the Japanese economy — that will equal those of the other advanced countries," the agency said.

The agency pointed out that unless there was an

improvement in productivity and sustainable growth, the social security system on which a rapidly ageing population relies for its future "may be damaged."

The agency said in order to turn an economic structure that helped Japan "catch up" after the war into one that can continue to perform, "the system that regulated the market economy in Japan also needs to be changed."

The report did not criticise the fundamental differences that set Japan apart from other industrialised economies — dominance of major corporations, lifetime employment, cross shareholding interlinking corporations, and the power of the major banks.

Bahrain to spend \$2.39b on development projects

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain has an ambitious 900 million dinar (\$2.39 billion) plan to upgrade its infrastructure, a cabinet minister has said.

Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Al Mutawae told Reuters the plan includes building a power plant at a cost of around \$600 million to meet growing demand.

He said a number of Arab investment funds would finance a new sea port at a proposed industrial area in Hidd, which would be linked with the main sea port of Mina Sulman by a bridge.

"The participation of Arab funds in Bahrain's new projects reflects their confidence in its economy," Mr. Mutawae added.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are highly inspired today and you should go after your wishes, wasting a moment's time for you to progress.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Contact a bigwig who can give you support today, and state your aims. Handle your career activities with much efficiency.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day today to see as many persons as you can and get the finest benefits possible for you to be successful.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get busy working on some new plan which can bring you greater abundance at this time, go about this in a positive manner.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have new ideas and can get assistance from one of a different background today, which can add to your own experience.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 23) Try to keep the promises you have made to the best of your ability at this time. Keep busy working all day long for you to be successful.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Have a candid talk with a bigwig today and come to a fine agreement on a new project. Listen to new ideas and analyse them cleverly.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Use your own ideas at this time for some career activities you have to do, don't permit others to influence you in your tasks.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have excellent ideas for putting your talents to work at this time. Later this evening have fun at whatever you like to do, but don't overspend.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't yield to pressure today at home so that your life does not become too difficult. Be more idealistic, no matter what arises.

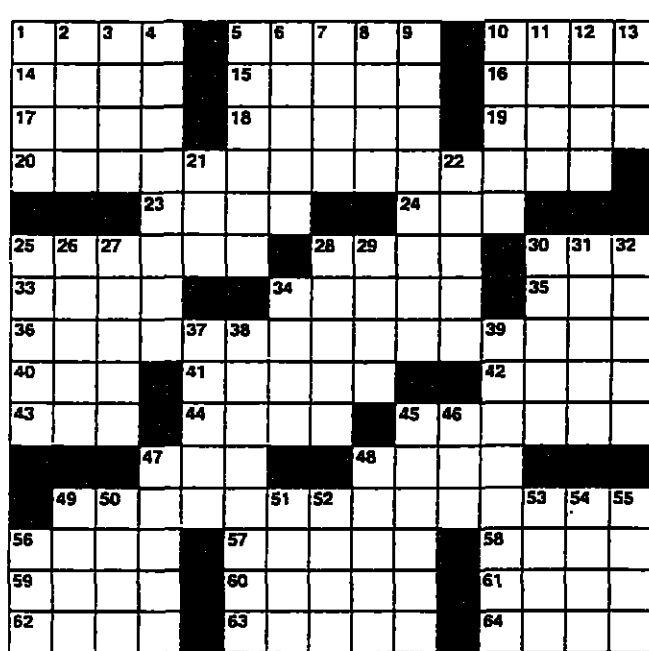
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can be highly productive today, but don't make radical changes. Be with fellow associates who are helpful to you on a new project.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Seek the assistance of a powerful person who can give you the help you need to be successful. Cut down on heavy expenses.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

THE Daily Crossword by Alvin L. Becker

ACROSS
1 Gross guy
5 — miss
(haphazard)
10 Deprivation
14 — mutual
15 — Gay (WWII plane)
16 Hybrid citrus
17 Erstwhile inits.
18 Playwright
19 Nursery item
20 Chicken
23 In the dumps
24 Antagonist
25 Render
28 Cabbage dish
30 Imitate
33 Landlady
34 Errant Gls
35 Kind of music
36 Holmes adventure (with "The")
40 Vane letters
41 Commerce
42 Bulrush
43 Patriotic gp.
44 Put to work
45 Except
47 Set a dog on
48 On the ocean
49 Discover in the act
56 Indonesian island
57 Haut — (high society)
58 In — (completely)
59 Arab land
60 Noted fur trader
61 Alaskan isle
62 Gusto
63 Some lights
64 Close by



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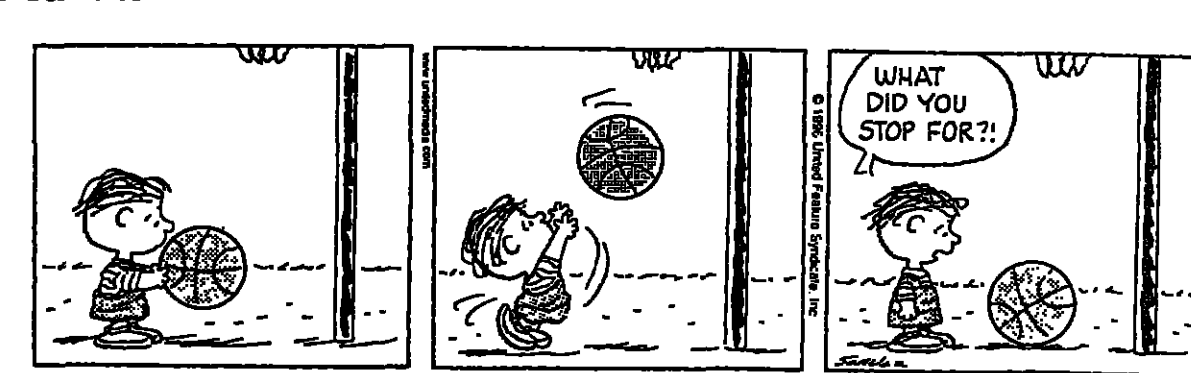
DOWN
1 Incentive
2 Whip
3 Approximately
4 Item in some gardens
5 Gas
6 Occupied
7 Work hard
8 Russian saint
9 Precipitation
10 Money
11 Fairy tale heavy
12 Glided
13 Blood relation
14 Building wing
22 Use a diving rod
25 Came clean
26 Actress Verdugo
27 Apple drink
28 Stockholm native
29 Gold strike
30 Debate
31 Cézanne and Klee
32 Fleurets
33 Jewish month
37 System of morality
38 "I'll Ware —"
39 Certain Southerner
45 Theater people
46 Tchrs. gp.
47 Assigned task
48 Append
49 Arrived
50 Woe word
51 Wine
52 Within: pref.
53 Be too affectionate
54 Ms. Kett
55 Gloomy
56 Dickens' pen name

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

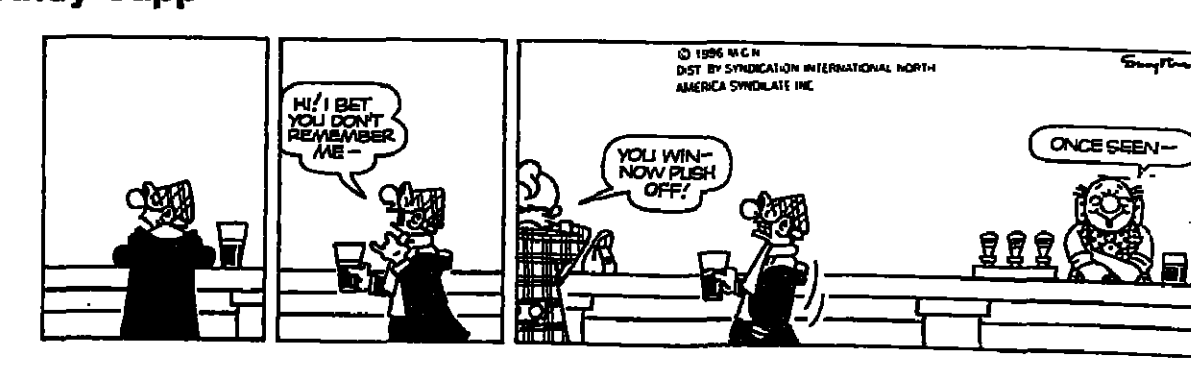


"Please moan into the phone. A nurse will evaluate your moan to determine if you are too sick to work today or just faking it."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



ANNOUNCEMENT The Central Bank of Jordan

The Central Bank of Jordan announces that, in conformity with the law of the Central Bank and the bylaw of the Issuance of Jordanian Currency No. (11) year 1995, a modified (JD10) banknote will be put in circulation as from Tuesday 17/9/1996. The specifications of the new note are completely the same as the note currently in circulation, except for the following modifications:-

- The phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic has been added to the front of the note.
- The phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English has been added to the back.
- The dates (both the Hejira and Gregorian) in Arabic has been placed to the right of the dates in English on the back of the note.

The modified note will circulate alongside the existing note and both shall remain in circulation as legal tender.

REUTERS • The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates											
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLE	FRF		
US Dollar	1.5112	0.6427	1.2402	110.20	1.3703	1524.15	1.5934	5.1383			
DE Mark	0.6617	1.0000	0.6366	65.55	0.9360	1008.37	1.1208	3.4001			
GB Sterling	1.5580	1.5580	1.0000	163.33	1.2248	171.19	2.1322	2372.49	7.9983		
CHF Franc	0.6063	1.2175	0.8175	100.00	88.82	1.0400	1228.76	136.51	4.1402		
JP Yen	0.0091	1.3705	0.5625	1.1244	1.2429	13.82	153.61	4.6610			
CA Dollar	0.7298	1.1035	0.4696	0.9052	1.24	1115.32	1.2358	3.7661			
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9911	0.4213	0.0813	1384.47	0.8988		11.11	3.3706		
NL Guilder	0.5905	0.8918	0.3790	73.22	65.01	0.8086	898.80		3.0325		
FR Franc	0.1946	0.2940	0.1250	24.1293	21.42	0.2666	32.95	32.9500			

Mid-East Currencies											
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY						
SA Riyal	0.2686	0.4030	0.17136	0.3308	29.3979						
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.41154	0.17498	0.33778	30.0163						
KW Dinar	3.3339	5.04032	2.1427	4.3566	367.512						
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.09962	1.70474	3.29056	292.398						
CY Pound	2.1418	3.2359	1.3753	2.6556	235.971						

Main Equity Indices											
Index	Value	Chg	% Chg	High	Low	Pt Ch					
New York	DOW JONES	5872.92	34.4	0.59	5875.88	5837.41	5838.52				
New York	S&P 500	684.3	3.76	0.55	684.42	680.53	680.54				
London	FT-SE 100	3977.2	9.3	0.23	3980.8	3972.2	3967.9				
Telaviv	NIKKEI 225	20842.64	398.71	1.95	20924.1	20473.3	20443.9				
Paris	CAC 40	2086.19	5.82	0.28	2091.54	2077.48	2080.37				
Frankfurt	DAX	2629.87	33.91	1.31	2630.32	2611.4	2595.86				

Energy											
Commodity	Last	Deliv									
Coffee (c/lb)	111.25	Spot									
Cocoa (S/ton)	1418	Spot									
Sugar (S/ton)	340.5	Spot									
Wheat (S/ton)	171	Spot									
Soya (c/lb)	24.45	Spot									
Tee (sig/kg)	120	Spot									
Barley (S/bsh)	3.08	Spot									
Rice (S/ton)	445	Spot									

JOD Cross Rates											
Currency	Buy	Sell									
US Dollar	0.708	0.710									
GB Sterling	1.1091	1.1058									
DE Mark	0.4674	0.4697									
CH Franc	0.5688	0.5716									
FR Franc	0.1371	0.1378									
JP Yen	0.6395	0.6427									
NL Guilder	0.417	0.4191									
IT Lira	0.4627	0.465									

Palestinian stock exchange ready to start trading

NABLUS, West Bank (R) — The first Palestinian stock exchange in the self-ruled areas is ready to begin operations as soon as the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) gives it the go-ahead, the bourse's director has said.

Safwan Al Bataina, general manager of the Palestine Securities Exchange (PSE), said technical and administrative preparations for the \$2 million exchange had been completed.

"We now have an advanced securities exchange both in terms of its electronic equipment and in terms of the strict monitoring regulations. We are waiting for the Palestinian National Authority to...issue the necessary legal regulations to start working," Dr. Bataina told Reuters.

The PSE is a joint venture between the Palestinian Development and Investment Company (PADICO) and the PLO's Samed Establishment, two main players in the nascent Palestinian economy. Both began working on setting up the exchange in the West Bank city of Nablus last year. The exchange is designed to attract capital from expatriates still reluctant to invest in the volatile West Bank and Gaza Strip. Trading will be conducted via computer terminals.

Shoman presides over first board meeting of PABI

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the Palestinian Arab Bank for Investment (PABI) held its first meeting at the Arab Bank headquarters in Shmeisani Monday Sept. 16, 1996 under the chairmanship of Abdul Majeed Shoman.

The Arab Bank holds 55 per cent equity of PABI which has a total capital of \$20 million. Other various international institutions and corporations, such as the International Financing Corporation (IFC), which is affiliated to the World Bank, holds a 25 per cent of the PABI equity. The German Company for Development and Investment (DEG) has acquired 15 per cent, and Enterprise Investments Company (EIC) holds five per cent of the capital of PABI which was established on June 9, 1996 in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

The founding general assembly of PABI held a meeting in Ramallah on Sept. 15, 1996 and elected its board of directors and formally announced the establishment of the bank.

Through its banking operations, PABI will support the Palestinian economy, grant short and medium-term loans PABI signed an agreement with the Arab Bank whereby the latter undertakes the training of

7th Arabian Horse Festival begins today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Organisers are all set and have prepared everything down to the last detail hoping horse lovers will come out and enjoy the four-day Arabian Horse Festival which opens here Tuesday.

Organisers at the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation (RJEFF), headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, are very happy with the number of participants and the fact that the annual event, celebrating its seventh year, this season enjoys sponsorship by Oracle, a leader in the world's information management software technology.

"We have done everything to ensure the event's success. We cannot thank Oracle enough for all their sincere efforts in marketing the event. Without them there would be no festival," noted Princess Alia.

"It is well-known that the organis-

ers have a lot on their minds regarding many details connected with the actual event. Therefore, if the advertising aspect is seriously taken care of by the sponsor that is a great relief," she added.

Princess Alia noted that a special brochure prepared by Oracle was now being distributed to all arriving passengers at Queen Alia International Airport. In addition to information about the horse show, the brochure also includes a map of Amman showing important sites in the capital.

During the final press conference before the start of the event the Princess said about 140 participants would be taking part. They represent Kuwait, Qatar, Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S.

The horse festival begins (today) Tuesday with horse races at Al Hussein Sports City grounds in the afternoon. The horse show starts

Wednesday and continues throughout Thursday at the Royal Stables in Hummar.

The event will conclude with the Middle East Championships on Friday.

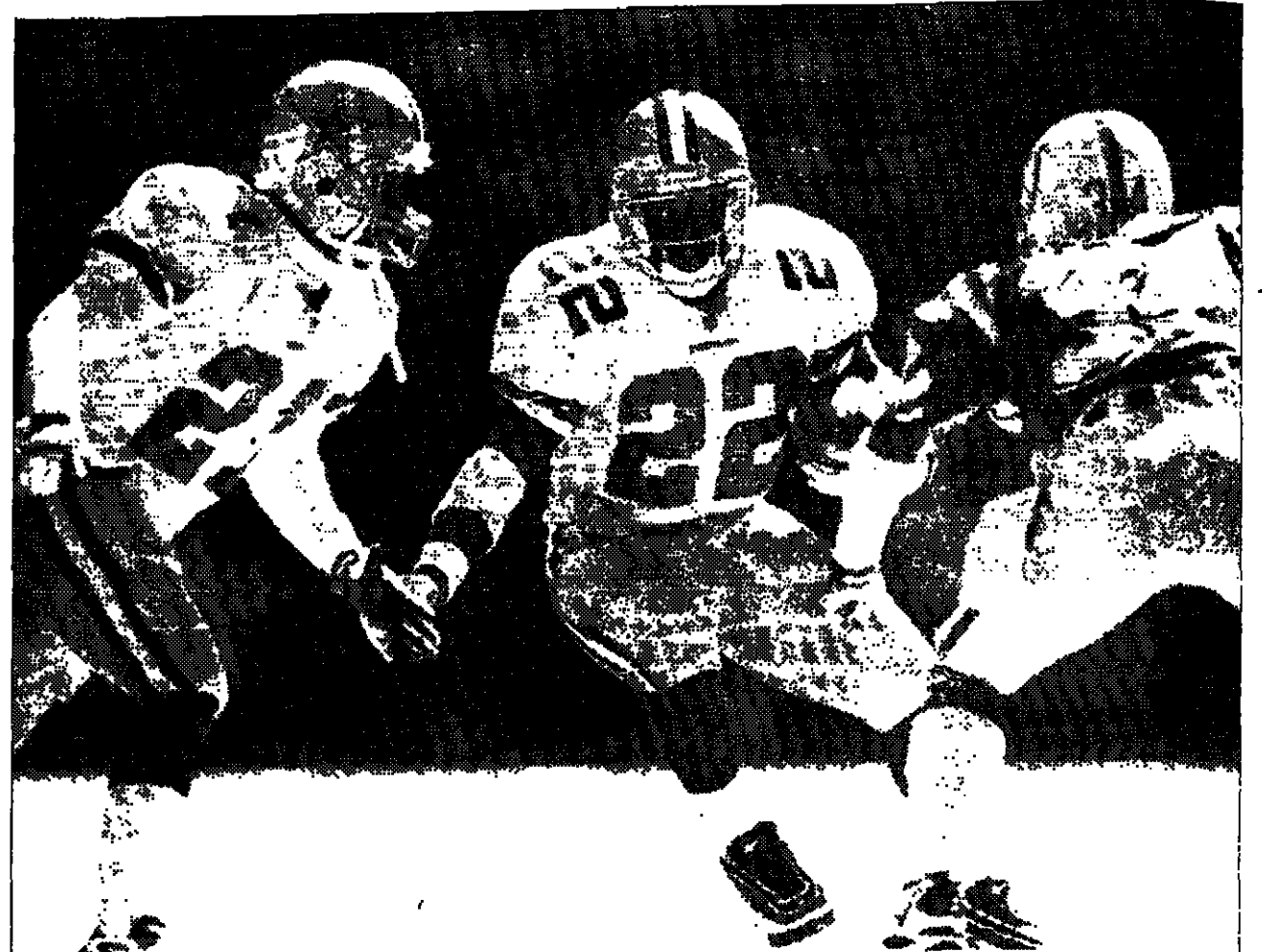
A judges course will also be held Saturday and Sunday.

Princess Alia noted that 27 Jordanian horse breeders would be taking part with Jordanian participants representing over 70 per cent of entries. The events will enable participating horses to qualify for international championships.

Tuesday's horse races will be run over 1200 metres, 1400m, and 1600m.

Judges for the horse show represent Holland, Australia, Poland, Sweden, and Morocco. They will be looking at type, head and neck, body and topline, legs and movement.

The endurance race, open only to local participants, will this year be held Oct. 18.



Dallas Cowboys' running back Emmitt Smith (22) waits on a block from teammate Deion Sanders (left) as Indianapolis Colts' Ray Buchanan defends in the first quarter of their NFL game (Reuters photo)

Roma take early Serie A lead while Milan lose again

ROME (R) — Goals from Uruguay's Daniel Fonseca and Argentine Abel Balbo lifted Roma to the top of Italy's Serie A Sunday as the Rome side kept up their perfect start to the season with a 2-0 win at Vicenza.

With a maximum six points from two matches, Roma are level on points with Bologna and Inter, winners over Verona and Perugia respectively, but lead the table on goal difference.

Champions Milan's mini-crisis continued with a 2-1 defeat at Sampdoria, their second setback in five days following the shock 3-2 European Cup loss to Porto last Wednesday.

European Cup holders Juventus lie joint fourth with Parma after defeating Cagliari 2-1 in Turin. Parma were held 0-0 at Piacenza.

Fonseca's second goal of the season followed a fine header from Italy under-21 international Damiano Tommasi.

In the second half, Roma's new Argentine coach Carlos Bianchi replaced the tiring Fonseca with Martin Dahlin and the Swede promptly set up Balbo for the second.

Bologna, Serie B champions last season, continue to reap the reward for strengthening their squad in the summer, winning with goals from Russian Igor Kolyvanov and Carlo Nervo at Verona.

Roy Hodgson's expen-

sively built Inter, with seven foreigners on their books, struggled to a 1-0 home win over Perugia.

At least, San Siro fans were treated to another solo goal to add to George Weah's end-to-end effort for Milan last weekend.

This time, Inter's Javier Zanetti started his run close to the halfway line, dribbling past three defenders before scoring.

But after Zanetti's goal, only former international goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca kept Inter in the game.

"The best thing would be for Serie A to finish now while we're first, then I could go on holiday in the West Indies for 10 months," said Hodgson, acknowledging that his multi-star lineup would take time to knit together.

Despite controversially dropping Roberto Baggio and giving veteran defender Pietro Vierchowod his Milan debut, coach Oscar Washington Tabarez again saw his side forebode an early lead.

Weah put the champions in front in the 13th minute, profiting from French defender Omar Dieng's error, but Sampdoria drew level with the last kick of the first half — a thumping free-kick from Argentine Juan Veron.

With 13 minutes left, captain Roberto Mancini settled the contest with a superb header — his 128th

serie a goal.

Juve's Croat striker Alen Boksic, on target against Manchester United last week, opened the scoring in the ninth minute with Italy's Ciro Ferrara adding a second in the 58th.

Boksic, recently criticised for poor finishing, has now answered doubts with two goals in which he has shown all the hallmarks of a natural finisher.

Against Cagliari he ran on to a delightful through-ball from Alessandro Del Piero, drew Swiss goalkeeper Marco Pascolo and drilled a low diagonal shot into the opposite corner.

Lazio, the club Boksic left in the close season, lie bottom after stumbling to their second successive league defeat.

The Roman side lost 1-0 at home to Udinese after giving away a soft penalty in the second half, converted by Giovanni Bia.

Coach Zdenek Zeman refused to accept that Lazio's dire form was a consequence of his decision to dismantle last season's successful squad by selling Boksic, Roberto Di Matteo (to England's Chelsea) and Aron Winter (to Inter).

At Atalanta, in a repeat of last season's Italian Cup final, only a late headed goal from Argentine Gabriel Batistuta spared Fiorentina from their second successive defeat.

Liverpool go top

LONDON (R) — Czech international Patrick Berger scored his first two goals for Liverpool in a 3-0 win at newly-promoted Leicester Sunday.

The attacking midfielder, who came on as a second-half substitute for striker Stan Collymore, blasted the ball home from the edge of the box just before the hour mark after a dull first half.

Nineteen minutes later he picked up the ball in midfield, danced through the Leicester defence and slammed the ball home, again with his favoured left foot.

In between, Michael Thomas scored with a half-volley which Leicester's American goalkeeper Kasey Keller fumbled into his own net.

The result took Liverpool, who have won a record 18 English League titles, to the top spot in the league, two points clear of overnight leaders and arch-rivals Manchester United.

But they could be overtaken by Chelsea if the London club beat Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge later in the day.

Berger, who supported Liverpool from a distance as a boy, joined the Merseysiders last month from German champions Borussia Dortmund for 3.0 million pounds (\$4.65 million).

He was part of the Czech side which reached the final of the European Championship in England in June.

Colts kick Cowboys 25-24 to remain unbeaten

DALLAS (R) — The Indianapolis Colts kicked their way to victory over the Dallas Cowboys Sunday as Cary Blanchard's fourth field goal, a 43-yarder with 51 seconds left, gave them a 25-24 win over the Super Bowl champions.

Cowboys kicker Chris Boniol had two field goal tries bounce away to help make Blanchard the hero for undefeated Indianapolis, who trailed 21-3 in the second quarter. Boniol had a desperation 56-yarder hit the crossbar as time expired. Before the Colts' last drive, he bounced a 40-yard try off the left goalpost to leave the door open.

"I came up just short," Boniol said. "It was long, but just not long enough. It's a bad feeling when you know you've hit it as well as you can, yet it's still not good enough."

After Boniol's botched 40-yarder, the Colts started at their own 30. Two plays later, quarterback Jim Harbaugh hooked up with tight end Ken Dilger in the right flat and Dilger broke two tackles on the way to a 26-yard gain to the Dallas 43 leading to the two-minute warning.

"The big tight end (Dilger) broke a few tackles. No way he should run that far off a screen pass," said Cowboys coach Barry Switzer, whose team fell to 1-2.

Harbaugh then dumped the ball to fullback Zack Crockett who ran to the Cowboys' 25 to set up the winning kick.

Indianapolis (3-0) played without starting running back Marshall Faulk, who sprained a toe last week against the jets.

"I don't know what to say," said Colts coach Lindy Infante. "We came in here nicked up and everyone was saying that we were gonna lose. We came together and I am really proud of these guys today."

It was the first victory for the Colts over Dallas since a 16-13 victory in Super Bowl V in 1970.

Harbaugh was 19-of-28 for 244 yards and two scores. Dallas QB Troy Aikman was 18-of-28 for 184 yards and a touchdown.

At Green Bay, the Packers (3-0) continued to roll as Brett Favre threw for three touchdown passes in a 42-10 demolition of the San Diego Chargers (2-1).

Favre has a league-high 10 touchdown passes. Safety Leroy Butler had his fourth interception, running it back 90 yards for a touchdown and former Heisman trophy winner Desmond Howard added a punt return for a touchdown for the Packers, who have outscored their opponents 115-26.

In Chicago, the Vikings kept pace with green bay in the NFC Central by beating the Bears 20-14 to improve to 3-0.

Scott Sisson kicked a pair of field goals in the final 7:25 for the Vikings for the winning margin.

Quarterback Warren Moon, who sat out last week with a sprained ankle, completed 22-of-44 passes for 239 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

In the AFC, the Miami Dolphins remained unbeaten with a 36-27 win over the New York Jets (0-3), setting up a Monday night showdown next week with the Colts for eastern supremacy.

Dan Marino led hosts Miami to touchdowns on five straight possessions to erase a 14-0 deficit.

Marino threw for 257 yards and three touchdowns. Rookie running back Karim Abdul-Jabbar had 124 yards.

In Seattle, the Kansas City Chiefs also remained unbeat-

en with a 35-17 pasting of Western Division rival Seahawks (0-3).

Marcus Allen scored two touchdowns to move into second place on the all-time list with 127, ahead of Jim Brown, and Steve Bono threw for three touchdowns as the Chiefs won for the 16th time in their last 19 regular-season games.

In Denver, John Elway directed yet another fourth-quarter comeback to keep the Broncos (3-0) unbeaten with a 27-23 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Terrell Davis ran four yards right up the middle to cap a 14-play, 80-yard touchdown drive led by Elway, the master of fourth-quarter comebacks.

Rather than winging the ball downfield, Denver used its strength up front to hold the ball for just over eight minutes as Elway handed off to Davis eight times for 50 yards.

In Philadelphia, the Eagles (2-1) bounced back from a Monday night defeat with a 24-17 victory over the Detroit Lions (1-2).

Ex-Lion quarterback Rodney Peete scorched Detroit's secondary for 284 yards on 25-of-30 passing. The eagles held Barry Sanders, who had 288 rushing yards in his first two weeks, to only 49 yards.

At New England, the Patriots (2-0) became the third consecutive AFC East team to humble the Arizona Cardinals (0-3), posting a 31-0 shutout.

Drew Bledsoe completed 21-of-35 passes for 221 yards and three touchdowns — two to Curtis Martin, who ran for another.

In Oakland, the Raiders (1-2) welcomed the return of quarterback Jeff Hostetler and defeated the Jacksonville Jaguars (1-2) 17-3.

Hostetler went 18-of-27 for 200 yards with one touchdown pass and defensive tackle Jerry Ball rambled 65 yards with an interception for a score.

In Cincinnati, Ki-Jana Carter scored his first NFL touchdown and Jeff Blake threw for 225 yards and a score as the Cincinnati Bengals defeated the New Orleans Saints 30-15. Cincinnati improved to 1-2, while New Orleans fell to 0-3.

At New York, Terry Allen rushed for 146 yards and a touchdown and the Washington Redskins intercepted four passes, including a pair by Tom Carter, to beat the Giants 31-10.

The Redskins (2-1) snapped a six-game losing streak against New York. The Giants dropped to 0-3.

RESULTS

Minnesota	20	Chicago	14
Cincinnati	30	New Orleans	15
Green Bay	42	San Diego	10
Houston	29	Baltimore	13
Miami	36	NY Jets	27
New England	31	Arizona	0
Philadelphia	24	Detroit	17
Indianapolis	25	Dallas	24
Washington	17	NY Giants	10
Oakland	17	Jacksonville	3
Kansas City	35	Seattle	17
Denver	27	Tampa Bay	23

Barcelona draw as Atletico slip

MADRID (R) — Barcelona's close-season spending spree continued to pay dividends on Sunday when \$20 million striker Ronaldo scored a spectacular individual goal at Racing Santander.

But even heroics from another new signing, goalkeeper Vitor Baia, were not enough to keep Barcelona ahead, a defensive mistake costing Bobby Robson's side two points and with it the undisputed lead in the Spanish first division.

With seven points from three games, Barcelona lead the Spanish first division on goal difference from Racing and Real Sociedad, who could only manage a 1-1 draw at home to Sporting Gijon, while early leaders Tenerife fell 2-0 at home to Sevilla.

With reigning champions Atletico Madrid going down by the same score at home to Deportivo Coruna, Real Betis need only draw in Monday's home clash with Real Madrid to go top.

Barcelona started strongly and seemed on the way to beating Racing for the first time in 14 years after Ronaldo picked up the ball and beat three defenders before scoring from a tight angle.

Baia made several superb saves as Racing fought back in the second half, but the Portuguese international could do nothing after Fernando Correa pounced on a mistake by Luis Enrique Martinez to make it 1-1.

Another Brazilian forward, Deportivo's Rivaldo, scored in his side's win at Atletico, who looked tired after their midweek Champions' League win over Steaua Bucharest.

Radomir Antic's team particularly missed injured playmakers Jose Luis Caminero and Kiko Narvaez.

But two more of last year's success stories, UEFA Cup qualifiers Valencia and Espanyol, picked up their first points of the season.

A solitary Miguel Angel Benitez goal gave Espanyol three points in the home clash with Valladolid, while Valencia had to be content with one after Saturday night's 1-1 draw at Zaragoza.

Feyenoord go top as PSV lose for first time

AMSTERDAM (R) — Feyenoord Rotterdam beat Twente Enschede 1-0 to top the Dutch first division Sunday as previous leaders PSV Eindhoven lost for the first time this season — 2-1 at Graaafschap Doetinchem.

Midfielder Jean Paul Van Gastel scored the vital goal for Feyenoord, fooling Twente goalkeeper Sander Boschker with a shot from a tight angle

which found the net at the near post.

Before the match, riot police arrested eight fans during confrontations between followers of Feyenoord and those of nearby German side Schalke who had crossed the border looking for trouble.

In Doetinchem, former Grasshopper Zurich strikers Ali Ibrahim and Eric Vicaal scored a goal each

for Graaafschap to terminate PSV's 100 per cent record.

PSV, who appeared jaded after their midweek trip to Georgia for a Cup Winners' Cup clash, badly missed strikers Rene Eyskelkamp and Luc Nilis, both sidelined through injury.

They managed to pull a goal back through Brazilian striker Marcelo but, despite increasing

pressure, failed to find an equaliser.

Feyenoord now head the table on 16 points from PSV on 15. Amsterdam Ajax continued their mini-revival by beating Sparta Rotterdam 2-0 thanks to goals from Tijjani Babangida and Finnish striker Jari Litmanen.

Ajax, who beat French side Auxerre 1-0 in the European Cup Champions' League on

Wednesday, again had several players missing injured, including captain Danny Blind and striker Patrick Kluijver.

The win took the Amsterdam team from ninth to seventh in the table, five points behind PSV.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA Nadia Jundi ... in ASSASSINATION (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 689238 PLAZA The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki...in Naser 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Arnold Schwarzenegger & Vanessa Williams ...in ERASER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Sylvester Stallone ... in ASSASSINS Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Ammon Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275 Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubeishat play starts 8:30 p.m	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155-640155
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Finnish Tommi Makinen (right) and his co-driver Seppo Harjanne celebrate their victory at the Rally of Australia. Makinen became world champion for the first time and cruised through the final day of the 1,560-kilometre rally to take his fifth victory of the season and become the first driver to win more than half the rounds of the World Rally Championship in one year (Reuters photo)

Makinen clinches world rally title

PERTH (R) — Finland's Tommi Makinen, became world champion for the first time with an emphatic victory in the Australian Rally Monday.

Makinen, 32, cruised through the final day of the 1,560-kilometre rally to take his fifth victory of the season and become the first driver to win more than half the rounds of the World Rally Championship in one year.

"It's an unbelievable feeling. Of course it was really quite a lot of pressure today, even though I wasn't in a hurry. The car is unbelievable," declared a beaming Makinen who also became the first Mitsubishi driver to clinch the title.

Makinen finished in 4 hours 08 minutes 50 seconds, 1 minute 17 seconds ahead of Sweden's Kenneth Eriksson in a Subaru and a further four seconds ahead of former world champion Spaniard Carlos Sainz in a Ford Escort.

If Sainz had finished second he would have prolonged the battle for the title until the San Remo rally next month. He made a last-gasp charge to overtake Eriksson but just failed by four seconds.

Sainz though, did well to finish third after

twice coming off the road while Eriksson cracked part of his car's transmission system on a massive jump and completed the rally leaking oil.

Britain's Colin McRae was a subdued fourth, but took his first finish for Subaru in three months, just seconds ahead of fellow countryman Richard Burns. "I was never in the groove for the whole rally. I was sure I could have gone a lot quicker, but as soon as you try to alter your pace in this rally, it's a risk," commented McRae, who was anxious to finish after a spate of accidents. "I'm reasonably happy," said Burns who equalled his best Australia result in his Mitsubishi.

Belgian Bruno Thiry nearly lost sixth place almost within sight of the finish. Severe electrical problems cost the Ford man two minutes on the final stage and the car stopped twice in the closing kilometres.

Thiry only reached the end by getting his co-driver to clamp part of the electrical system together as they threaded their way through the Perth traffic.

The San Remo Rally, the next round in the championship starts October 13.

Costa beats Goellner in final

BOURNEMOUTH (AFP)

— Top-seeded Spaniard Alberto Costa came from behind to beat German Marc-Kevin Goellner 6-7, 6-2, 6-2 in the final of the revived Bournemouth international open Sunday.

Costa follows another Spanish player, Jose Higueras, who won the last Bournemouth tournament in 1983.

Costa was a decisive winner in a mainly baseline duel, but not before a protracted protest from Goellner in the fourth game of the final set.

Costa was leading 2-1 and 40-30 on the German's service and then hit a fierce forehand immediately called out by the line judge.

But umpire Gerry Armstrong over-ruled the decision — then awarded the game to Costa to give him a crucial 3-1 lead.

Goellner, who has lived near Luton for more than three years, demanded that the umpire look at the line. The umpire descended, but stuck to his decision.

Goellner then appeared to lose heart and Costa, world-ranked 15, won three of the next four games to win his third title of the year.

Italians dominate Tour of Spain

CORDOBA (R) — Italian sprinters once again dominated the Tour of Spain in Sunday's ninth stage but had no illusions about staying on top when the race resumes after Monday's rest day and moves into the mountains.

Both stage winner Nicola Minali and overall leader Fabio Baldato recognise that their time in the spotlight is up.

The rest day will come as a welcome break after nine stages — all decided right on the finish line — from which no clear leader has emerged.

With the sun shining, much of the 162 kilometres between Jerez and Cordoba was ridden in a carnival atmosphere as entire villages turned out to pay tribute to Spanish hero Miguel Indurain.

Indurain has not ridden the vuelta since 1991, the year he shot to prominence by winning the first of five Tours de France.

Perec going for world record

TOKYO (AFP) — Double Olympic champion Marie-Jose Perec of France won the 200-metre dash at the Tokyo international athletics meeting Monday and vowed to go for a world record when she takes her explosive talent to the 400-metre hurdles next season.

"Honestly, I want to break the world record. I will resume training in late October and concentrate on the technical aspects of hurdling," the 28-year-old said.

Guadeloupe-born Perec, who doubles as a fashion model, was speaking after her effortless win in the 200-metre dash at the Tokyo meet, a cash-laden finale to the season.

The winner of the Atlanta Olympics 200-metre and 400-metre runs surged ahead after the bend and broke away from Nigerian Chitima Ajunwa and American Inger Miller with 50 metres to go.

She slowed her pace before the finish and won in 22.59sec, off her personal best of 21.99. Ajunwa followed home 0.06sec behind and Miller, fourth at Atlanta, came in third 0.09sec further back.

"Looking back at the season, I think I could have broken a world record if I raced in the 400m hurdles after Atlanta," Perec said.

"Then, again, it has been a very tight season in which I

competed in so many races, 15 to 18 altogether. And it would have been impossible."

Her victory lap wowed the 51,400-strong crowd at the national stadium where her world-beating career came into bloom with the 400-metre victory at the 1991 World Championships.

She waved her hand with a bouquet of flowers in her arm, smiling.

"I am somehow surprised by their reaction. But I am happy to see them give me such a big hand," she said.

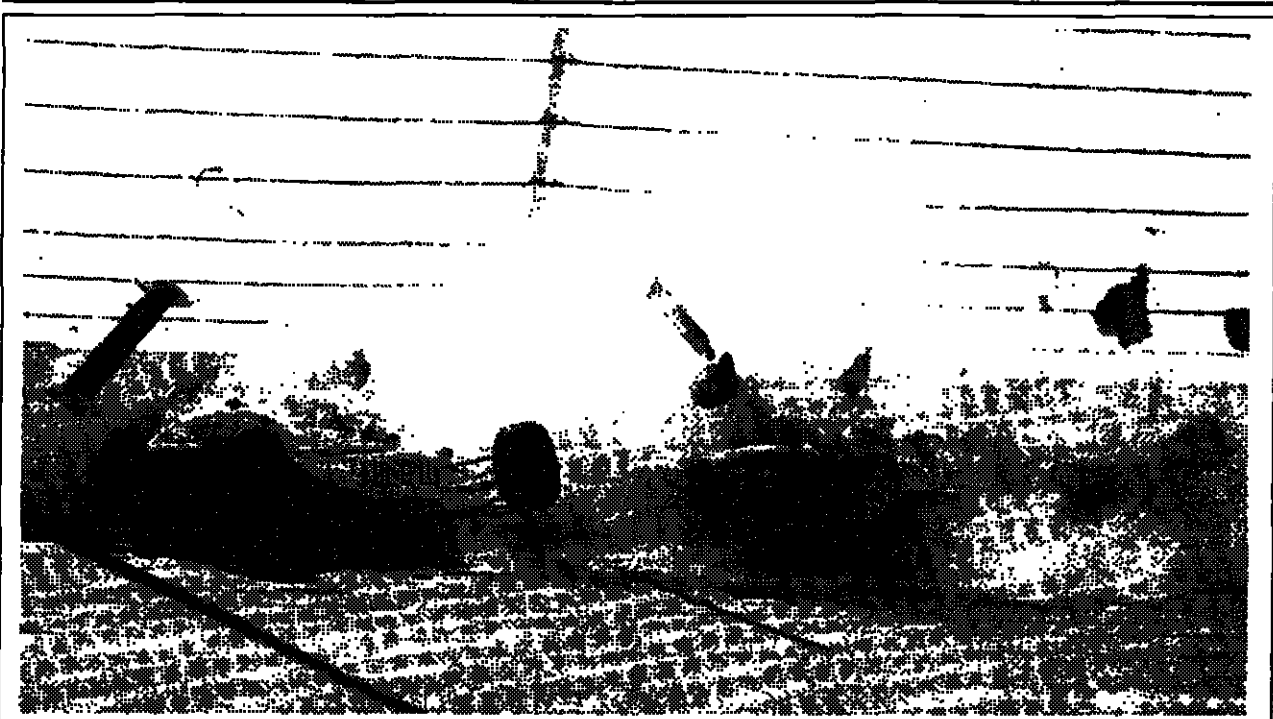
Perec has yet to decide whether to compete indoors because her height at 180 centimetres (6 feet) would

be a liability on a shorter track and "I don't want to compete if there is no chance for me to win."

Dressed in a black T-shirt and her black hair clipped back into a bob, Perec was braced for a storm of sorts at the end of what she called an "extraordinary season."

She is going back to Guadeloupe from here for her routine post-season homecoming trip to the French Caribbean island.

"I will spend a week there. Everybody is waiting for me and I will meet them all," she said. "I know I won't be able to relax myself."



IRL drivers Eddie Cheever (left) and Brad Murphy hit the wall in turn two on the 29th lap of the 'Las Vegas 500' Indy Racing League race. Murphy was airlifted to a local hospital with a possible broken leg (Reuters photo)

Late rally gives Dodgers victory over Cardinals

LOS ANGELES (R) — Tim Lincecum capped a four-run, eighth-inning rally with a two-run single as the Los Angeles Dodgers maintained a half-game lead in the National League West with a 6-5 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

The Dodgers took three of four from the Central-Division leaders and have won six of their last seven outings to remain ahead of second-place San Diego in the west.

"This was a big-league heartbreaker," said Cards manager Tony La Russa. The Cardinals have lost four of five but maintained their 2 1/2 game lead over Houston.

In San Diego, Joey Hamilton and Willie Blair combined on an eight-hitter as San Diego blanked the Cincinnati Reds 8-0.

In New York, Tom Glavine allowed two runs over 8 2/3 innings and Chipper Jones had a pair of RBI singles as the Atlanta Braves ended their season-high six-game losing streak with a 3-2 win over the New York Mets.

The Braves, who snapped a 10-game road losing streak, reduced their magic number to nine for clinching a fifth straight division title. They lead Montreal by 5 1/2 games in the National League East.

In Montreal, Al Leiter combined with two relievers on a six-hitter and Jeff Conine homered and drove in two runs as the Florida Marlins held on for a 4-3 victory over the Montreal Expos to avoid a four-game sweep.

At Colorado, Andres Galarraga homered twice and had four RBI as the Colorado Rockies won their eighth straight, 11-4 over the Houston Astros.

Houston has lost three straight and 11 of 15 to fall three games behind first-place St. Louis in the NL Central.

In San Francisco, the Pitts-

burgh Pirates scored six times in the 10th inning, then withstood a four-run Giants rally in their half to take an 11-9 victory and complete a doubleheader sweep.

In the nightcap, Giants star Barry Bonds stole his 30th base, joining the 30-30 (at least 30 homers and 30 steals in a season) club for the fourth time. Only his father, Bobby, who achieved

the feat five times, has done it more.

In Chicago, Benito Santiago homered three times and drove in all six runs and Curt Schilling tossed his league-leading seventh complete game as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Chicago Cubs 6-1.

Santiago led off the second against Kevin Foster (7-4) with his 27th homer.

Results

American League	
Boston	9
Oakland	10
Toronto	3
Baltimore	16
Seattle	7
Texas	6
California at Kansas City	postponed-rain
National League	
Florida	4
Atlanta	3
Pittsburgh	4
2nd-Pittsburgh	11
Colorado	11
Los Angeles	6
San Diego	8
Philadelphia	6
Chicago	1
Chicago	18
Cleveland	9 (10 innings)
New York	1
Detroit	16
Minnesota	0
Milwaukee	2
Montreal	3
New York	2
San Francisco	3
San Francisco	9
Houston	4
St. Louis	5
Cincinnati	0
Chicago	1

Major League Soccer

Mutiny clinch 1st place in Eastern Conference

FOXBORO (R) — The Tampa Bay Mutiny won twice in three days to clinch first place in the Eastern Conference last week with the best record in Major League Soccer.

The Mutiny (18-12, 54 points) seized a 14-point lead over second-place D.C. United (14-16).

Tampa Bay secured first with a 2-1 win over the New England Revolution Thursday, then won for the first time in four games against United Saturday.

Martin Vasquez broke a 1-1 tie in the 74th minute to overturn the revolution. Two days later, Roy Lassiter scored his league-high 24th goal and Steve Ralston added another as the Mutiny blanked United 2-0. Colombian midfielder Carlos Valderrama set up both goals.

The New York/New Jersey MetroStars (14-16, 36 points) missed an opportunity to clinch a playoff spot in the East, falling 2-0 to the Columbus Crew Sunday after beating the Los Angeles Galaxy (17-13, 43) 3-1 at Giants Stadium Tuesday.

U.S. Olympian Miles Joseph scored two goals and Colombian Antonio De Avila one in Tuesday's game.

The Crew (14-16, 34) won for the eighth consecutive time to move into fourth place over New England as Brian McBride and Marcelo Carrera scored in the opening 14 minutes.

U.S. International goalkeeper Brad Friedel, 7-0 since joining the team last month, registered his third shutout.

The final week of the season will see New York, Columbus and New Eng-

land scrambling for the final two playoff berths and each team has two games remaining.

United hosts New England on Tuesday. Columbus plays at New York on Wednesday and then at New England on Saturday.

New York also visits Tampa on Saturday.

The Galaxy regained first place in the Western Conference with a 4-2 victory over the San Jose Clash (14-16) in Pasadena Sunday.

Harut Karapetyan and Chris Armas scored for the Galaxy. Goalkeeper

David Kramer started in place of Jorge Campos, who was in the Nets for Mexico's 3-0 win over St. Vincent in World Cup qualifying.

U.S. International Eric Wynalda and Paul Bravo scored for San Jose.

Goalkeeper Mark Dodd made three consecutive saves in the shootout to give Dallas a 3-2 win over San Jose on Wednesday. The Burn rallied from a 2-0 deficit behind goals by Brian Haynes and Jason Kreis after Missael Espinosa and Ben Araho scored for the clash.

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Abu Shakra / Ppromark introduces Calvin Klein's new scent

The Jordanian perfumes market has been craving for the arrival of American world-renowned Calvin Klein's scents, the most widely sold perfumes world wide until fortunately the Abu Shakra Trading Agency has satisfied the local market's demands and desires of these world famous scents.

Mr. Ra'ed Abu Shakra has announced the introduction of the Calvin Klein's perfumes to the local market and has displayed these products at a selected number of perfumes stores around Amman and announced the introduction at a special celebration organised by the Abu Shakra Trading Agency at the Amman Marriott hotel.

Mr. Ra'ed Abu Shakra and Mr. Joseph Fraiha who represents Calvin Klein held a press conference attended by Abdul Hamid Abu Shakra and Mr. Rami Abu



Shakra during which they outlined the history and the activities of this company, world famous in the world of fashion and perfumes.

Ra'ed Abu Shakra reviewed before the press the range of perfumes currently on sale like Option, Escape and Eternity for men and women and finally the CK One, a men and women perfume, whose sales have broken all records.

At the press conference, Mr. Joseph Fraiha reviewed the biography of Calvin Klein, the designer and his world wide success.

Ra'ed Abu Shakra thanked the audience for attending the conference stressing that Abu Shakra Trading Agency will pursue its efforts to remain a leading firm in the world of perfumes and fashion.

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2) Location: Jabal Luweibdeh. Description: Area 340 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, maid's room, 2 big salons, garden, central heating.
For more information call 885019 between 9 a.m. - 12 noon



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The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Monday 7th October 1996. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD(15) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Tuesday 15th October 1996.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

